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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In the Foreign Office debate on Thursday Sir Edward Grey made a very grave statement as to the political condition of Egypt. Studiously avoiding, as he would do, any suggestion of alarmism or sensationalism Sir Edward Grey made it clear that he thought there were signs of very ill omen in Egypt just now socially and politically. There is tension and therefore, as every sensible man agrees, the less said about Egypt just now the better. The ridiculous persons who take exception to the British fleet visiting Russian ports were put in their place by Sir Edward quietly and effectively.

After the statements made in both Houses of Parliament, King Leopold will understand that Sir Edward Grey is as determined as was Lord Lansdowne that the state of things on the Congo must be mended or ended. There has no doubt been grave exaggeration in the reports of the horrors committed, and other Powers do not seem to be very keen to join with Great Britain in taking some action. Public opinion in Belgium however as in this country has been roused to a consciousness that a public trust has gradually come to be regarded as an almost exclusively private concern. Great Britain insists that radical changes shall be made in the system of administration, and if those changes are not introduced then the British Government will exercise its right to appoint Consuls in the Congo basin who would play the part of watchdogs in the cause of a humane native administration.

In the Upper House on Monday Lord Newton raised the question of the proposed increase in the Turkish Customs Duties which it is reckoned will result in a gain to the Turkish Government of three quarters of a million. This increase is bound to handicap British trade, and as Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice pointed out we can only countenance it on the understanding

that we get a real improvement in Macedonia and also in the administration of the Turkish Customs House and in the mining regulations—matters that intimately affect British trade. There is an uneasiness lest the Turkish Government should get their money and yet not give the equivalent, common, it is easy to see, to Lord Fitzmaurice and Lord Lansdowne—it would be strange if, in the light of Turkey's record in such matters, there were not uneasiness. But Great Britain is not the only Power concerned in this Customs' increase and the questions with which it is bound up; so that we can only proceed with great care and patience.

Count Tolstoy said recently that he had ceased to be interested in the Douma, and asked who these men were who presumed to be representatives of those who were better than themselves. He would find his views confirmed by the accounts of this week's discussions on the Bill abolishing capital punishment which represents the first legislation of the Douma. The Ministry is absolutely opposed to it and to the Douma's land proposals, as to which it has proposals of its own that are now being placed before the peasants in the hope of winning their confidence. Rumours have been prevalent of the dismissal of the Douma by coup d'état; but it seems that an effort is to be made to continue with a composite ministry under a new chief which is to come into existence next week. Reports of disaffection in the army are mostly exaggerated and spread by those who foment it; but official army orders and announcements such as those relating to the Preobrazhensky Regiment of the Guards, its changed status, and the court-martialing of officers, show the existence of some insubordination which has had to be taken seriously by the Government.

Colonel Mackenzie is striking hard at the rebels in Natal and has been engaged in a big enveloping movement which unfortunately seems to have just failed of its object. Combined columns moved on the Chief Mesini's kraal and sharp fighting ensued in which between 400 and 500 of the enemy were killed, happily at remarkably small cost to the colonials. Mesini's main body escaped, probably through the lack of guides which delayed Sir A. Wool-Sampson's junction with Colonel Barker, who had to fight a heavy

engagement near Noodsberg. Regrettable though the continuance of the war undoubtedly is, it has given the colonial forces an opportunity of showing not only excellent mettle, but the extent to which they have profited by the lessons of the Boer war. Their hardships must be great, and the appeal issued by the Princess Christian for the means of placing extra comforts at their command will meet with a hearty response.

At last something has really been done about Chinese Labour to satisfy the advanced Radical wing below the gangway and the Independent Labour party. Mr. Churchill announced on Wednesday that the words "tremblingly obey" are to be removed from the new proclamation. Humanitarianism has scored a victory. But what words are to be inserted in place of "tremblingly obey"? We would suggest something like "obligingly comply with".

"Be true to the traditions of the Empire" and "Do nothing to impair the bonds which unite Great and Greater Britain" were the twin notes of Lord Elgin's speech at the Dominion Day dinner. Both may well be applied to colony and Colonial Office alike. If a self-governing colony sometimes advances pretensions which strike us at home as hardly compatible with loyalty to the Empire—and Canada has done this on more than one occasion since Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been in power—the Colonial Office on the other hand has had to be sharply reminded, since Lord Elgin has been in charge, that autonomy makes all the difference. As a Canadian himself, the Secretary of State rejoiced in the strides which the Dominion has made in its thirty-nine years of existence. Great as they have been, it is impossible not to reflect that if a wiser economic system had regulated our relations with North America, the progress would have been still more marked.

In face of the actual facts about the American Meat Inspection Law it is scandalous that the Secretary of Agriculture has issued a statement which has about as much truth in it as one issued by the Meat Trust itself might have. Amongst other things, it says the Federal stamp will be a guarantee of healthiness of the animal, and that the product has been prepared in sanitary surroundings, and with the addition of no deleterious chemical or preservative. In reality the Bill is a snare, and a victory for the packers. The date of inspection is not to be placed on the tins; Government has to pay the costs of inspection—both points insisted on by the packers. As before, the costs of inspection depend on Congress, and the meat interests will see that these are cut down so as to make inspection a farce. Secretary Wilson's statement is reckless as to the real facts; it is nothing more nor less than a prospectus to revive the discredited trade, to mollify the meat interests, and to cover up the actual defeat of President Roosevelt's better thoughts.

One could hardly expect either the American Ambassador or Mr. Bryan to dwell on these scandals at the banquet on Wednesday. It is not an appetising dinner subject. But it is rather humorous to find Mr. Whitelaw Reid dwelling with pride on the American habit of "drawing no decorous veils over wrongdoing and harbouring no foulness which they were not eager, the moment they proved it, to drag under the eyes of all the world". We have never heard of any feverish eagerness to show the world what has been going on for many years in these enormous meat factories, owned by some of the richest men in the United States, until a novelist made it impossible to keep things dark any longer. Congress does not seem to have been so very anxious to sift the matter to the bottom. Mr. Bryan preferred not to allude to these domestic matters even covertly. He must have bigger questions; the education of the Orient by the West, the world's peace, universal arbitration. Mr. Bryan is an exceptional man, but apparently, like Mr. Gladstone, he is better to hear than to read.

An American has disclosed to the Lords' Committee on Juvenile Smoking that America sends for consump-

tion in Great Britain something even worse than the canned meat. This is the American cigarette, which is drugged with cocaine and opium, the stuff it is made of being gathered and made up in filthy surroundings. To the adult this is very impressive, but what cares the juvenile smoker? Probably having finished his cigarette, he will eat a microbe-charged halfpenny-ice at the Italian's barrow with relish. The American witness made a good suggestion that these cigarettes should be prohibited from coming to this country. It is at any rate better than turning "converted boy smokers" into detectives to catch their companions, which it seems they do in the forty-seven States that have passed anti-cigarette laws. Many people would consider a cure of this kind worse than the disease. Happily, whatever deterioration is given through the cigarette is not falling specially on the British boy.

In the Commons there was a very characteristic exhibition of this Government's methods in the House on Monday. The question was whether parents should be compelled to send their children to school during the time given to religious teaching. The Government Bill laid it down that they should not be compelled; in other words, that religious teaching should be out of school hours. Afraid openly to stand by their Bill, the Government announced that this clause (6) would be left to the judgment of the House, the Government taking no side in the matter. But in fact Mr. Birrell was put up to support the clause, in a speech which was an emphatic and vehement appeal to Liberals to support the Bill. The natural and of course calculated result was that most Liberals did not like to vote against the Education Minister; and the clause was carried—by 16. Thus the Government—for this was the act of the dominant members of the Government, as much as any other proceeding in connexion with the Bill—has excluded religious teaching from school, after fervently opposing the proposal made in the House to secularise all schools. Even their regard for Cowper-Temple religion turns out to be insincere. The country will now know that the Government really want to get rid of religious teaching but are afraid to admit as much. They have provided the Opposition with a very useful platform text.

The teacher question came next. The Bill prohibits the teachers in denominational schools taken over by the education authority from taking part in the denominational teaching allowed to be given two days a week. Mr. Birrell failed, rather he did not try, to give one single reason for this encroachment on the teacher's freedom. Though this denominational teaching is allowed by the Bill and is not to be charged on the rates, teachers who have given it hitherto and wish to go on giving it are arbitrarily forbidden to do so. A Liberal private member, Mr. Cox, did suggest that if allowed to teach the catechism, teachers who were willing to do so would be preferred to those who were not. This argument applies with precisely as much or as little force to Cowper-Temple teaching. But the Bill allows teachers to give that. The Government are quite willing for a teacher to be rejected because he objects to giving Cowper-Temple teaching. Mr. Birrell actually pretended that there would be nothing in the nature of a test in rejecting a teacher who had written "agnostically" of the Bible. Really, is Mr. Birrell's intellect asleep? He also suggested that a teacher might teach dogmas contained in a formula so long as he did not use the formula itself. This would be a most dishonest evasion; and we hope no denominational teacher will take Mr. Birrell's hint. The only object, of course, of preventing teachers taking part in denominational teaching in ordinary schools is to embarrass the Church of England.

Mr. Birrell has not been ingenuous from the first; he has now nearly crossed the border to downright dishonesty. Having left the House in no doubt whatever that he would introduce a new clause, containing his bilateral plan compelling an arrangement as to voluntary schools between the owner and the education authority, he is now trying to get out of his under-

taking, or what everybody took to be an undertaking. Mr. Dillon very pertinently asked whether it was not the custom, when the Government gave a pledge to introduce a clause, that they should introduce it in accordance with the pledge. The Government's treatment of the House in these discussions of the Education Bill has been captious and unfair in the extreme. Every possible obstacle has been placed in the way of debate. Government amendments are promised and then not submitted to the House until the points they most affect have been disposed of. Other times Mr. Birrell states as the Government policy views which are not in the Bill. In fairness to the House Mr. Birrell ought to have got up the Bill—even if not his own—better.

The report of the Ritual Commission was made public this week. The gist of their conclusions is that immediate and drastic action should be taken against the incumbents of certain Ritualist churches; that strict legality has never been observed by any party in the Church; that the law is too rigid and should be made more elastic; that the present ecclesiastical courts are defective; they carry no weight and should be reconstituted, a spiritual element being introduced. The bias of the Commissioners against the Ritualists is very obvious. It is unlikely that this Government will take any action on the report. Not only is there no obligation on them to do so: there is no inducement. Why should they cleanse the Church, as they would say, and weaken their case for disestablishment? More than this, they have no moral right to deal with the internal affairs of the Church, seeing that their majority in the House consists mainly of nonconformists, avowed enemies of the Church. For once we are able to agree with a pronouncement of Mr. Perks.

The Chamberlain natalia at Birmingham begin today. Even his bitterest opponent will admit that Mr. Chamberlain's career is deserving of festal celebration. It is surely the most remarkable in public life after Disraeli's. There would have been nothing very wonderful in Mr. Chamberlain reaching the leadership of a Radical party. He had all the qualities for that vocation; and some of his defects would rather have helped him than otherwise. But that he should come to be a prince amongst Tories, and the most powerful personality in the country, is an incalculable achievement. On the Tory side he had not a single adventitious advantage, but many drawbacks. Sheer ability and force of character alone explain his predominant influence. His Birmingham supremacy comes within a comparatively familiar category—it is of the same essence with many smaller local reputations. And now his national and imperial distinction reacts to swell his local greatness. As a political feat his holding all Birmingham against a flood like that of last election is perhaps without precedent or parallel. Gladstone did nothing like it; indeed in a party ruin Gladstone was always amongst the first to go. Mr. Chamberlain is still too active a politician for this to be a non-party celebration. Yet we cannot doubt that there are now very many who vote for "Our Joe" entirely apart from politics.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who died on Sunday, surely was the mildest-mannered man that ever tried to scuttle ship in party politics. He was a terror at one time to "the trade", and his desire "to rob the poor man of his beer" was proverbial. This is the way to get thoroughly hated. Yet who can remember hearing Sir Wilfrid Lawson angrily interrupted in a speech? Once or twice he was almost hummed down when talking genial nonsense too long over Mr. Goschen's licensing clauses, but ordinarily his speeches in the House, like Mr. Labouchere's, pleased or amused practically everybody. His waggish verses too delighted many people. But one may be forgiven for saying that they were often tedious, overfull of humour of a painfully obvious quality—the humour of the guffaw.

As was to be expected Mr. Swift MacNeill's motion on Friday for an inquiry into Mr. Justice Grantham's indiscretions at Yarmouth and Bodmin fizzled out. The Government resisted it and it was withdrawn.

All that happened was the delivery of a number of speeches, some of them by lawyers, and especially one by the Attorney-General, calling attention to Mr. Justice Grantham's unwisdom, which is unfortunately too true and was too well known before. Mr. MacNeill is a famous discoverer of mares' nests, and his lack of judgment was as conspicuous as Mr. Justice Grantham's in supposing there was anything like such grave misconduct as is the only justification for a motion of this kind. Its proposers must be prepared to petition the Crown for the Judge's removal; but, as the Prime Minister said, Mr. Justice Grantham had done nothing deserving removal from the Bench.

At the Marylebone Police Court on Wednesday the magistrate was compelled to sentence three of the suffragettes to six weeks' imprisonment unless they gave bail of £50 apiece and bound themselves to keep the peace for six weeks. They persisted in going to prison. It seems rather too bad to give the ages of these ladies as the newspapers do; this is a delicate matter. But there seems to be an idea in some quarters that you ought not to be a suffragette unless you are young and skittish. "What do you want, a lady of your years, interfering in an agitation of this sort?" asked the prosecutor for the police of one of the ladies. The prosecutor evidently takes, in these matters, the view of Pericles who told Elpinike that she was too old to meddle in affairs of State.

Lawyers will note with some interest that Lord Coleridge K.C. has been appointed a Commissioner to take the place of a Judge on the Midland Circuit. It has happened of late several times that such an appointment is usually preliminary to a seat on the Bench. The probability in this case seems the greater because it is rumoured that with the Long Vacation three or four Judges are intending to resign. Lord Coleridge's claim to a Judgeship cannot be considered very exigent on the ground of his distinction in the Law Courts. Even as an advocate his career has not been particularly striking, not nearly so much so as might have been expected from his reputation on the platform. Nor is he one of the men who, though not brilliant advocates, are recognised as eminently fit for the Bench. Lord Coleridge is almost in a class by himself; he is a Radical Peer; he is the only Peer practising at the Bar; and as far as we know he is the first Peer Commissioner and will, if he should be made a Judge, be the first Judge who goes to the High Court Bench as a Peer. Innumerable judges have been made Peers, but not the other way.

The Poplar inquiry has reached the stage when the Inspector thinks it would be well to have it over as soon as possible, as it is not doing any good to anybody. An attempt to charge the management of the labour colony with the extravagance of the workhouse had very doubtful success; but it does suggest that labour colonies of the kind are of no good. A farm where half the men have nothing to do, and are fed with meat twice or three times a day, is only a workhouse for the able-bodied under another name. There was evidence given of questionable practice in regard to tenders: the Inspector remarked that if he were a Poplar guardian, he should not allow a minute to elapse without sifting the figures that had been given. Whether Mr. Crooks has been jocose or serious, his treatment of the question has been injudicious. The general extravagance of workhouse administration defended by such comments as "Well the rich had lived at the expense of the poor for a good number of years" is not very convincing; and people will still wonder why workhouse tea should be eightpence per pound more than House of Commons tea, even after Mr. Crooks has made his joke about the House tea being very poor stuff.

Since the Tay Bridge fell a quarter of a century ago there has been no railway accident so terrible as that at Salisbury on Sunday morning. There is no official evidence of importance yet to prove why the boat express left the rails, though expert and inexpert alike have offered to explain how and why. Some are

sure a broken axle was the cause, others that it was the result of the racing competition between the South-Western and Great Western, and others again attribute it to the frightfully dangerous curve at Salisbury. As a fact the curve at Salisbury is not more dangerous than many others on lines all over England: there are S curves on all lines through hilly country quite as pronounced as this one: they are only dangerous if the drivers break the speed regulations for such places. It does seem as if the driver of the boat train broke the regulation, but no real evidence of this has been published so far.

All we know for certain is that the train leapt the rails from some other cause than an impediment on the line, and this is the culminating accident of quite a long series of the kind. The derailing of trains, as was mentioned in Parliament on Tuesday, has been frequent of late. The accident in Wales last year was due to this, and there have been various lesser accidents of the sort, one indeed on the Great Eastern a few days ago. It raises doubt whether the system of the rails, however efficient the gangers, is perfectly adapted to the rolling stock and powerful engines of to-day travelling at highest speed. Have the "ringing grooves"—to apply Tennyson's mistaken metaphor—changed enough to suit changed conditions?

The loss of life and the injury to some of the passengers who barely escaped have grieved the whole nation. It serves no purpose now to dwell on them in print. Most of the victims were Americans: the cases of Mr. Sentell and Mrs. Cossitt are cruel almost beyond comparison: they have the pity of a world of people, but one doubts whether pity can assuage in the least such mental anguish as theirs. The officials all behaved admirably, but one may single out the guard Richardson. His coolness—which saved many lives—and his dauntless conduct deserve high praise. We need have no hesitation in applauding a man like this: praise only hurts weak and vain men and women, makes them weaker and vainer. Strong, straight characters such as Richardson's are unaffected by it.

Señor Manuel Garcia, by living so long after the festivities in his honour in March of 1905, gave the most striking proof of the fine physique which enabled him to make more than a year over his century. Many a younger man would have been killed by them. In addition to the honour he won as one of the centenarians, who have a roll of fame of their own, he was the greatest singing master of his day; but his chief claim to the remembrance and admiration of posterity is that he was the inventor of the laryngoscope. An instrument which professional anatomists and physiologists had desired but failed to invent was hit upon, though only after much scientific investigation, by a singing master. There is more irony in the fact that the doctors did not see the importance of the invention for long, and then that two of them received all the honours as founders of laryngoscopy, and Garcia was forgotten until in 1876 Huxley brought his claims to the knowledge of English scientific men. But he never made any money by his invention.

The Henley Grand Challenge Cup has gone to a foreign crew, the Club Nautique de Gand, Belgium, who seem to have beaten every crew opposed to them without much difficulty. It might not have affected the result, but it is at least very unfortunate that Leander was not able to enter this time for the Grand Challenge. Certainly this is not Oxford's year. Unexpectedly beaten by Cambridge in the spring, Oxford has now failed to win a single race at Henley; and Lord's does not seem likely to redeem the failure on the river. The Canadian Argonauts were great favourites, but no one regretted the absence of American crews. After the disgraceful imposture of the Vesper Club of Philadelphia, facilitated and virtually condoned by the U.S. National Association of Amateur Oarsmen, it will be long before any American crew will be welcome at Henley. Add this to the meat scandals, and we have a striking exposition of the American sense of honour in business and sport.

SIR EDWARD GREY AND HUMANITARIAN MEDDLERS.

NO one would wish to underrate the difficulties that beset Sir Edward Grey or the skill and discretion with which he has met and overcome them. At the same time we cannot pretend to any surprise at the general humanitarian attitude adopted by Mr. Byles and his friends. Their standpoint is the traditional one of their party, and until it has been definitely abandoned they cannot be charged with initiating anti-patriotism as a policy. Thirty years ago nine Liberals out of ten would have done the same. Liberal Imperialism is a plant of modern growth and requires careful nurture if it is to emulate the mustard-seed of parable. We may be thankful that its patrons have since the advent of the present Ministry controlled our foreign policy. Our concern is rather excited by the possibility that they may lose that control or succumb to the surrounding atmosphere. But it would be churlish to deny that to the influence of Liberal Imperialism this country owes the recognition of continuity in foreign policy.

The difficulties which political philosophers have foreseen in the administration of a great empire by democracies have been happily in the course of elimination by the gradual withdrawal from parliamentary interference of our foreign, Indian, and colonial policy. We are glad to recognise that the leaders of the Liberal party when in Opposition often took the right line in this matter. It can of course only be guaranteed when the Government to a certain extent takes the Opposition chiefs into its confidence. Without shifting responsibility a Government may thus avoid awkward conflicts which might mar the effect of their own action. The small dogs can then only bark without biting. But, with the Liberal party in office, the difficulties are much greater. We do not deny the sobering effects of office itself, but that does not touch the members below the gangway. The Prime Minister's replies to inconvenient questions have been almost as judicious as those of his Foreign Secretary. Possibly to-day Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is less of a "C.-B.ist" than many of his followers, but it is difficult enough to withstand appeals to what may be truly described as Liberal tradition.

On certain matters in foreign affairs there is no difference between the most frantic Little Englander and the most truculent Jingo. This is clear from Thursday's debate. The Turk has no friends, and everyone is agreed that the Powers must be urged on to do their best for Macedonia. Absolute unanimity also exists with regard to the Congo State, and everyone resents the cynical impertinences of King Leopold. But things are on a different footing when we come to the two questions which have specially affected the discussion on Thursday, the unpleasant incident in Egypt and the attitude we ought to adopt towards the Government of Russia. Now in both of these instances Liberal Ministers have been gravely hampered by Liberal traditions. Since the time of Palmerston the maxim of "civis Romanus sum" has often undergone strange modifications, perhaps more in theory than in action, but it has always been the tendency of a large number of Liberals to believe that in a dispute between British subjects and foreigners or between colonists or officials and natives the contention of the alien is the correct one and should be upheld. From this standpoint it is for the Englishman to show (or his representatives) that he was not rightly injured or murdered. The Egyptian incident is a peculiarly forcible example of this inverted patriotism. The facts of the whole deplorable affair are now clear. The outbreak was the result of a deliberate plot. The shooting of pigeons in the village in question was a common occurrence. It was carried out on this occasion, as it had been before, by previous arrangement with the Sheik who had before and at this time sent his own vehicles to convey the party to the spot. The fire was in all probability a signal for the attack, kindled not by the carelessness of our officers but by the malice of the villagers, and the only question in the end was whether the victims should be burned or done to death in some other way. We have had no doubt ourselves that the true origin of

the affair is to be found in the undoubted rising in Egypt of a wave of fanatical pan-Islamic agitation, and this view is confirmed by Sir Edward Grey's grave warning.

Fanaticism is the only possible explanation of a most brutal and treacherous outrage. It is the custom of the violent Little Englander to await no explanations, but to plunge straight for his object, the condemnation of his countrymen, on the insecure authority of incomplete or garbled reports. This Egyptian episode is a striking object lesson in this procedure. We know now, as it would have been fairer to assume before, that there was no wanton defiance of the villagers' feelings as we were originally given to understand. Sir Edward Grey has most properly taken the line of requesting the House to await a full and authentic account of the whole proceeding. This may go against the grain with those whose impulse it is to condemn their own countrymen first and 'tar the evidence afterwards but it is the course imposed by all considerations of equity and common sense. We are not surprised therefore that it is adopted by the Foreign Secretary.

In the insane outcry which has been raised over the proposed visit of the British fleet to Cronstadt we have a less excusable and far more dangerous form of the humanitarian mania. We are sorry to be obliged to admit that journals which support the policy of the Opposition have done their best to fan the flame. This nation has been pluming itself for some little time past on its increasing popularity in Europe. It would seem however that we can never shake ourselves free from the fatal habit of reading lectures to other nations on the best way of governing themselves. This fault may be due to insularity but it should have been corrected by experience. Yet it was actually the duty of the Prime Minister the other night to oppose a proposal of what was practically a vote of censure on the Russian Government and to point out the elementary fact that such interference with the internal affairs of other nations could only aggravate the woes it was designed to cure.

Whether or no Russia should be governed by a Douma is no business of the British official world. It is their duty to recognise the *de facto* Government of a country and not to express any opinion upon its merits. Inter-course between civilised states would be impossible upon any other basis. Still more hopeless would it be if rulers were to administer lessons in government to other nations by means of official snubs spasmodically applied at the bidding of their followers. The line taken up by Sir Edward Grey in this matter has been of a piece with his habitual rectitude and common sense. It has also been in accordance with the best traditions of his office. Pitt recognised that, though guilty of excesses, the revolutionary Governments of France were the *de facto* Governments of that country and as such entitled to recognition so long as they were not the enemies of his own. Palmerston acted precipitately as regards the Crown but without doubt correctly in the end when he recognised Louis Napoleon after the coup d'état. President Cleveland was perfectly justified in getting rid of an English ambassador who had expressed an opinion on a presidential election. In fact to pursue any other course would be to practise methods which might soon land us in a European war. The pharisaical standpoint of the humanitarian may excuse some of his extravagances; but what is to be said of the lamentable exhibition made by Lord Jersey on Monday night? He enjoyed it is true the support of Lord Muskerry who has established for himself in the Lords the enviable reputation earned by Mr. A. C. Morton in the Commons. But what, we ask, can be said for an ex-Colonial Governor, presumably acquainted with official life, who suggests that the fleet should not go to Cronstadt for fear some of our sailors should meet some of Admiral Rodjestvensky's and fraternise with them? The North Sea incident is "one that can never be forgotten"! Pitt, who had the hardihood to assert that no nation should be eternally the enemy of another, must hide his diminished head before this new apostle of international relations. Here we have the advocates of humanitarianism at any price and of ill

blood at any price joining hands. What an auspicious conjunction! But it serves at least to demonstrate the absurdity of the whole pother which is as dangerous as it is artificial.

THE RITUAL REPORT.

WE cannot congratulate the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Disorders on its report. We allow that the document has merits and that some good may flow from its publication. With many of the objects which the Commissioners seek to obtain most sober, peaceable and truly conscientious sons of the Church of England are virtually in sympathy. Nevertheless the report taken as a whole is a pitiful production, for the simple reason that it lacks the one thing above all others needful, a sense of justice.

These Commissioners, be it remembered, were appointed to inquire into the alleged prevalence of breaches of ecclesiastical law. It was no portion of their task to philosophise as to the greater or less evil of special breaches of that law. They, however, have philosophised thereon, and with curious results. The conclusion, for which the reasons are suppressed, is that breaches of the law arising from a wilful disregard of a plain duty are a practically less serious evil than a breach which springs from conscientious conviction or unsound theological reasoning. It is the latter sort of offence not the former that constitutes in their minds an "offence to public order, a scandal to religion and a cause of weakness to the Church of England".

Were evidence needed of the hopeless folly of such a contention, the report itself would supply it. There is a portion of the province of Canterbury, to wit the four Welsh dioceses, where these extreme Ritualistic follies are, as the report states, rarer than anywhere else; but where, as the report also shows, gross neglect of duty, as illustrated by the absence of services on holy days, is disgracefully common. Criticising gentlemen so Erastian-minded as the majority of the Commissioners, we will not lay stress on the heavy loss involved to the Church of England in the alienation of the majority of so religious a people as the Welsh from her communion. We would rather ask these Erastian defenders of temporalities how it is that the ballot-box has pronounced so much more strongly against the Church in Wales than against the Church in London? Were their view correct that the pressing scandal of the Establishment is to be found in Ritualism, it would be strange indeed that the chief political danger to the Church should threaten her from the least Ritualistic diocese in the land.

However we waive the point. Let us, for argument's sake, say with the Commissioners, that the need of the hour is the suppression in a few London churches at the cost of enormous scandal of practices apparently subversive of the Prayer Book and the Articles, and a patient acquiescence in the slothfulness and neglect of those numberless clerics, who in many a country parish throughout the land make the Church the laughing-stock of her enemies, and the despair of her children.

The rule must be applicable not only to such Ritualistic extravagances as the celebration of the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified to which the Commission would apply it, but also to such a treatment of the Athanasian Creed as is the use in Westminster Abbey. The omission there of six verses from that creed and the alteration of a seventh is explained by the Dean on the ground that he with other clergymen regards the omitted words "in their plain or apparent sense" as not only "misleading, but false". We admire the Dean's candour: but in view of the fact that an article of the Church of England in the clearest terms declares the literal truth of this creed, his position is just as lawlessly subversive of the teaching of the Church of England as the most foolish freak of any of the Ritualistic curates whom the Commissioners have pilloried. So far however are the Commissioners from applying their principle of immediate prosecution to the Dean that they kindly suggest that his scruples should be met by an alteration of the Rubric. So for the convenience of the cultured Dean of the Abbey, these Bishops, Lords and gentlemen are ready to hurl the Thirty-nine Articles into the lumber room where the schoolmen repose, while to gratify a

no-Popery prejudice they are shrieking in the name of the same Articles for the prosecution of an unwise cleric in a poor metropolitan district. That they are all quite unconscious of the mean unfairness of such a policy is the most pitiful feature of the whole thing. "Tantum religio potuit suadere malorum."

Certainly while Church polity remains as it is we see no possible way of discriminating between such a case as that of the Dean of Westminster and that of the vicar of S. Mary Magdalen's, Paddington; and as the prosecution of such a man as Dean Robinson would be a calamity and a scandal, prudence no less than equity dictates that the coercive machinery of the courts should not be put in force against the unlawful and aggravating excesses of the Ritualists. The very worst method of dealing with such excesses would be that of prosecution. A more sensible policy would be to combine against them Temple's policy of "no prosecution" with Creighton's method of personal pressure. These particular excesses, be it remembered, only affect an infinitesimal portion of the whole Church. Where they exist they seem according to the report to cause no annoyance to the parishioners, the persons chiefly affected, since in general only the spies of the Church Association and other busybodies troubled to delate thereon to the Commission. The best thing to be done with them therefore is to drop all talk of litigation and to try to induce those responsible to abandon them by a friendly episcopal pressure exercised not only privately but also synodically; aided by the sympathy and support of the great majority of the High Church party, such a course would soon succeed. These practices make no appeal to devout Anglicans. Before Kensit commenced his blasphemous antics, they were indeed fast dying a natural death even in their own sanctuaries. The only thing that could give them a chance of taking root in the Anglican Church would be their persecution. How ridiculous a policy of persecution would be is shown by the shriek of the Commissioners for the repression of the most popular of the clerics of S. Alban's, Holborn. The clergy of this church are perhaps mistaken in their theology, they are certainly not discreet in their ritual observances: the particular manual that has got them into trouble is as un-Anglican as a sermon on the higher criticism or on nonconformity by Canon Henson, but the lives of these men have won the esteem of thousands in London of all and of no creeds, for they have, as Temple said, the kernel as well as the husk. More graceful martyrs no fanaticism could desire; to make of them martyrs is a folly from which a Cromwellian Ironside might have shrunk.

When they admit the impossibility of forcing on a twentieth-century Church a rigid code of obscure ecclesiastical law centuries out of date, the Commissioners talk sense. It is what we have often said. Whether it would be possible in the course of the next five or six years to induce Convocation and Parliament acting together to give us such a modification of the Act of Uniformity is exceedingly doubtful. The attempt might end in a serious schism. Still there is no harm in our Primate seeing what the united Convocations think of the matter, if only the atmosphere in which they discuss is not tainted with the unsavoury odours of ecclesiastical litigation. Their recommendations on the subject of the reform of the ecclesiastical courts are to High Churchmen even more welcome. At last we have a plain admission that the settlement of doctrinal and ritual problems is a matter for the spirituality acting through the episcopate. The special mode in which the claws of the Judicial Committee and the statutory Court of Arches are proposed to be clipped may not be quite as satisfactory.

It is however a great point gained for High Churchmen that they have forced Erastians and Low Churchmen to allow that in their long fight against the Erastian tyranny of the ecclesiastical Star Chamber they had both justice and policy on their side. We only trust that the price of this victory is not the regrettable acceptance by two bishops of the objectionable features of the report. They proposed reforms in the Consistory Courts which would restore to the bishop a true jurisdiction in his own court and make impossible for the future the irresponsible and often abused

autocracy of the diocesan chancellor, and, if they could be carried, rescue the Church from grave scandals. The advised repeal of the Public Worship Regulation Act is likewise a proper peace-offering to the manes of its victims who went to prison often for obeying what in the end was proved to the satisfaction of their persecutors to be the true law of the Church.

The suggested abolition of the bishops' veto under the Church Discipline Act of 1840 is a different matter. True it is that the Commissioners do not seem to contemplate this step until the remote date when their various reforms shall form part of the ecclesiastical law of the realm. Even if their ideal was attained, we believe that such a step would be harmful. We say this not in the interests of the High Church party. In our belief the principal victims of free litigation would be the critics. Practically it would be impossible to give them a secure legal position in the Church without risking a joint secession of Ritualists and Evangelicals. And even were it possible, the very protection of the critic of to-day might be turned against the critic of to-morrow. The essential fault of the Commissioners has been that they are out of sympathy with the most distinguishing feature of the Church of England—her love of liberty. While Rome has taken her stand on the principle of authority, the Church of England has realised her intellectual mission through a wide liberty. This liberty can and must be tempered administratively by the rulers of the Church. Under a régime of Law Courts, even if the judges were the most pious Churchmen of the age, it would assuredly wane and die. That the Commissioners have declared for such a system shows that they are as much out of touch with the philosophy of Anglicanism as the unwise, or unworlly, devotees whom they would proscribe.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON possessed the charm which is invariably produced by the union of wit with urbanity.

"As the soft plume gives swiftness to the dart,
Good breeding sends the satire to the heart."

Sir Wilfrid was frequently personal and not always good-natured in his jokes: but he never transgressed the line which separates what may be from what may not be said. For this reason he remained through life the popular advocate of unpopular principles and his arrows left no rankling wound after the smart was passed. Naturally the House of Commons adored him, for that assembly loves jokes, particularly if they be personal. The late Mr. George Cavendish-Bentinck had been supporting the right of every man to drink as much as he pleased, and his oratorical manner had been rather more incoherent than usual. Sir Wilfrid Lawson followed and began: "The right honourable gentleman who has just spoken was evidently full of his subject". Sir George Campbell, a furious bore, was quarrelling with the Chancellor of the Exchequer about stamping the device of S. George and the Dragon on Scottish coins, which he contended ought to be stamped with S. Andrew. Sir Wilfrid Lawson suggested, as a compromise, that Scotch coins might be stamped with the device of Sir George and the Dragon. When Mr. Harry Lawson (Lord Burnham's son) first came into Parliament, Sir Wilfrid Lawson thus referred to him: "I do not know much of my honourable friend, except that he bears an honoured name", a hit that was hugely relished by the House. Sir Wilfrid was very good at devising electioneering cries, and is the author of the saying that Tory principles meant Beer and the Bible. At one of the elections the Unionists kept on repeating "The flowing tide is with us", which Sir Wilfrid Lawson parried with "The flowing bowl is with them". But the Cumberland baronet was not one of those niggards who keep their good things for the public. In private life he was a generous dispenser of puns and epigrams, and he wrote a large number of satirical verses in the "Anti-Jacobin" style, which were reserved for circulation among friends. Latterly his fortune was impaired and his gaiety eclipsed by the imprudence of a relative; and the usurpation of his

favourite seat in the House by the new members filled the cup of the old gentleman's unhappiness. For Sir Wilfrid Lawson essentially belonged to the old school of parliamentarians, and to the Victorian era of politics. The very subject round which his humour flashed is dead. The most sparkling gibes about intemperance are flat and unprofitable in an age when lithia varalettes supply us with bubbles, and neuritis has supplanted gout. Everybody from peer to peasant is as sober as a judge, and for some years past Sir Wilfrid Lawson felt his occupation going.

Another subject as inspiring as drink, let us hope, will be evolved out of these drab and dreary days, and another jester as genial and as well-bred as Sir Wilfrid Lawson. The House of Commons must have its "fool", like the kings of old, to mitigate the boredom of routine; and certain common features may be observed between the funny man of the legislature and of Shakespeare's plays. Both are privileged to be personal and occasionally coarse. Smollett, in opposing a Bill for Women's Suffrage, convulsed the House by talking of "the pectoral, abdominal, and fundamental attractions of the sex". Bernal Osborne, when interrupted by a dissentient exclamation, glared at the offender, and said, "Sir, I don't know who the honourable member is, but he looks like a dissenter", a form of score which would certainly not be appreciated by the present House of Commons. Most of the late Sir Robert Peel's hits were mere grossness and rudeness, as when he mispronounced the name of the sculptor Boehm, or when looking at Sir William Harcourt he declared that all international lawyers were "portentous bores". Mr. Labouchere was never very effective as a parliamentary jester, because he would repeat in the House of Commons stale articles from "Truth". Mr. Gibson Bowles was personally rude enough to qualify for the post, but his gibes were not good-natured, and somehow he sometimes managed to cross the impalpable line alluded to above. It is said that nowadays anyone who "supplies a want" makes his fortune. Sir Wilfrid Lawson's death has created an opportunity. Mr. Lough, as a minister of State, makes a very tolerable House of Commons "fool" with a difference. But he may not be a minister long, and will certainly never be a minister again; so he is hardly a candidate. As a private member his fooling does not mitigate the boredom of routine.

CHRISTIAN QUACKERY.

IT is unfortunate that the so-called Christian Science case did not end in a decisive verdict. The dangers of professors of an unintelligible cult superseding regular medical attendants are apparent, even if we suppose that they honestly believe what they practise. But whatever may be said of the therapeutic value of this questionable method of healing, it is shown to be a fine field for the practice of chicanery, humbug and fraud of a particularly dangerous kind. There seems one rule of common-sense that can be applied to it. If its practitioners are to put it forward as a rival method of healing, they ought to be regarded as having charge of their cases. The chief defence of Dr. Adcock was that he had not charge of Major Whyte so as to be responsible for what had happened. This was the most important question left to the jury, and it is extremely to be regretted that they did not see their way to answer it either affirmatively or negatively. In the interests of the public safety we have no hesitation in saying that an affirmative answer was to be expected and desired. But the jury disagreed; and the Judge by the course he has thought fit to take has made it practically impossible that the question should be put to another jury. Mr. Justice Bigham a day or two after the trial, addressing those in charge of the case, said "He had carefully considered the evidence, and in his opinion a conviction would be undesirable. His opinion was that the evidence was not sufficient to bring guilt home to the man". Mr. Justice Bigham was plainly assuming the functions of a jury in giving this opinion upon the evidence; but however illogical it may be that his opinion should

influence a jury's view as to the facts, it would without doubt do so. The defence in a second trial would have an immense advantage by the opinion of the judge being known, as it would be bound to be after being reported in the newspapers. In thus assuming that a second jury would disagree, and preventing a second trial, the judge has done the reverse of a public service. It was important that the great question which underlay every other question which might have been put to the jury should be answered.

This question was whether any person applying to an invalid a method of mental treatment, however named, in substitution of treatment by medical men, should be regarded as taking the place of the medical attendant. If this question, purely one of fact, had been answered affirmatively the danger from the pseudo-Christian science would have been scotched, though perhaps not killed. We refrain from saying whether a jury should or should not have found Dr. Adcock guilty of negligence which implied manslaughter. But it was exceedingly desirable that a jury should have found whether Dr. Adcock in the circumstances was in charge of the case. It is not improper to say that a second jury might very well find that he was. Mr. Justice Bigham appears to have committed an indiscretion in interfering and interposing his views so as de facto to prevent a second jury from deciding this question of fact. He would not have expressed such an opinion to the jury over whom he presided, and while the case was in esse he ought to have been equally reserved. Surely in such an important matter the public prosecutors ought not to have their hands tied. It is for them to be convinced in a matter of public interest that no jury will convict, by trying the experiment on a second jury; solvetur ambulando—not by the dictum of a judge giving a gratuitous and superfluous opinion. He himself might be the judge on the second trial or another judge might be selected. In the first case he makes himself impossible; and in the second he is, as it were, guilty of a contempt of court by guessing at the result of the trial. Mr. Justice Bigham has gone out of his way to suppress a second trial by his influence as a judge; and considering the importance of the fact which a jury would have to decide, but has not decided, and may now never decide until another serious case arises, he has done harm and not good.

But supposing that on a second trial a jury should give a verdict that the facts did not show that Dr. Adcock had charge of Major Whyte. Then there ought to be a substantive law that the professors of soi-disant Christian Science, if they attend upon the sick for the purpose of applying their principles, shall be held to be in charge as if they were practising under diplomas. In Major Whyte's case the question the jury had to decide was whether Dr. Adcock was in medical charge as doctor, attendant or nurse. There is a probability that the majority of the jury were in favour of finding that this was Dr. Adcock's position; though in strict reasoning it looks inconsistent to say that the man who is there to make medical attendance unnecessary should be held himself to be a medical attendant. So that a jury might feel compelled to acquit, and yet feel that in fact and common-sense a Christian Scientist had assumed a responsibility which he ought to be prepared to meet. The danger from the practice of Christian Science calls for legislation which would embody this common-sense view. Then the Christian Scientist (it is a preposterous name but we must use it) would be on the same level as the Peculiar People. There is no more reason why a jury should be befogged over Christian Scientists than over the Peculiar People. If the man of faith loses a case in which the therapeutic means used have been prayer or spiritual anointing or what not, then the doctors may say the patient would have recovered under medical treatment. That is a dispute for the jury to decide, on the grounds of probability, from what they know or may be taught of the resources of medical science. This is the course a jury takes where a parent is charged with neglecting physical for mental or spiritual agencies in regard to his child; and the question would be exactly the same if the Christian Scientist had the status of the medical attendant imposed on him by

law, as it ought to be. It appears that the Christian Scientists are accustomed to take fees for their services; and this fact makes it the more absurd that they should escape liability by being presumed to have no duty towards their patients. And a useful supplement to legislation creating this duty would be the imposition of fine or imprisonment on all who practise this occult art for gain. Under the guise of a religion it opens up limitless prospects of imposing upon the weak and helpless in body or mind, and obtaining money upon false pretences of a kind which is of all the most hard to detect. Its professors should be called on to show that they are not exercising the mysteries of faith and prayer in competition with the medical profession for fees. It is not necessary to deny that there is a substratum of truth in their principles, that to an unknown extent they may be applied with good results in the treatment of disease. But it must be remembered that Christian Science is not merely an alleged method of curing disease, but a criticism and reproval of the faith of all other professing Christians who do not accept and practise its doctrines. And yet their own ranks are, from the nature of the case, peculiarly liable to be overrun by impostors, and charlatans and swindlers. At least we are entitled to demand some proof of honesty, and what could be better than their avoiding the appearance of making a profit out of their peculiar practice of the healing art? It seems then that society ought to have these two legal safeguards against dangers to which the case of Major Whyte has shown it is exposed from this very doubtful class of practitioners, who may even be ignorant, as Dr. Adcock confessed he was, of the elements of the perilous art they practise.

THE RUSSIAN AGRARIAN PROBLEM.

I.

IN a recent Address to the Throne the Council of Ministers rightly stated: "The welfare of Russia is unattainable so long as the prosperity of agriculture is not assured." The consideration of the agrarian problem is in fact the most urgent matter now before the Russian Government, and is of infinitely greater moment than the strenuous demands for wholesale release of bombasts and incendiaries, or the cause of Jewish aggrandisement, for which the Douma is mainly clamouring. The agrarian problem is no new one in Russia. From the earliest periods of her history, and with ever-increasing frequency from the sixteenth century onwards, agrarian disorders have required the serious attention of her rulers. Continual expansion and fresh acquisitions of territory have obviously added to the numerous difficulties to be coped with in bringing about a successful and even agricultural development throughout the whole empire. Owing to the special forces of nature at work in Russia and other peculiarities of soil and of climate, all Western ideas of land settlement and tenure have always been out of the question. Her vast European area alone comprises within its latitudinal span of twenty-five degrees conditions alternating between a prolific black-earth country and a climate resembling that of Southern Italy, in which are some of the finest vineyards in Europe—in the southern provinces, and an almost barren sandy soil as large as France, with a semi-arctic climate, producing little more than pine and birch forests—in the north. The latest Zemstvo statistics give some idea of the marked differences that exist in the quality of the soil and marketable conditions of the midland and south-western provinces alone. The annual gross value of all agricultural produce, for example, in the Bessarabian Government (S.W.) is given in tables xvii and xxi at 36 roubles 13 copeyks per dessiatin (=2·70 acres to the dessiatin); whereas that of Nizhni-Novgorod (midland) is 9 roubles 95 copeyks only. It is clear, therefore, that in order to exploit efficiently the country's manifold agricultural resources not a uniform agrarian system but varied systems are requisite. Prior to its realisation the serf emancipation was universally looked to by all classes as the panacea for

every existent agrarian grievance and deficiency. But the emancipation was both immature and premature. Instead of improving the condition of the peasant it tended to aggravate his troubles and demoralise his character. The discharge of Russia's financial liabilities has still to be effected, mainly by the export of the raw produce accruing from the land. The well-to-do squire or landed proprietor (*pomestchik*)—not the peasant be it noted—continues to be the large, real and responsible producer of export grain. On the average he has brain, capital and a fair technical and practical knowledge for working the land, in which the peasant is lamentably lacking. A certain innate propensity to migration in the peasant was doubtless one of the factors which originally conduced to the establishment of serfdom and to his enforced retention on the soil which he cultivated. Coincidentally with the emancipation was born that dominant policy which tempted Russia to a desperate struggle towards becoming, with the aid of borrowed foreign capital, essentially an industrial producer and exporter of manufactured goods into "warm waters". In the result this policy induced an economic crisis and a disastrous war. Moreover it fostered the present agricultural depression and peasant insubordination by giving a new impetus to the liberated peasant's dormant migratory tendencies; this time in an exodus to the towns. Thus at the same time the rural districts were depopulated and a mischievous urban revolutionary proletariat created. The Slav temperament is particularly prone to idealist theorising. "What is wanted is to give the peasant more land" has been an axiom freely promulgated of late years by Tolstoyist politicians and foreign onlookers alike. The peasant can be supplied with additional land naturally by its expropriation from its present owners. This course, viewed superficially, might at first sight suggest a short and easy, if not very equitable, solution of the problem. Setting aside moral and legal objections to so drastic a settlement, let us look at some statistics from the last census. There are three categories of peasants in Russia: viz. (1) the peasant class that remains permanently on and supports itself entirely by the land; (2) the class that migrates temporarily and periodically during winter to find work in the towns; (3) those who through scarcity or unproductiveness of the land they cultivated have left their villages permanently, and have since settled as regular town residents, becoming shopkeepers, artisans, or workmen on the railways. Some, thanks to special perseverance, luck and industry, have risen even to the rank of honorary citizens; some have joined the organisations of the revolutionary proletariat. The census of 1897 gives the total acreage of land allotted to the peasants under cultivation in the fifty governments of Russia as 382,001,400 acres,* private property under cultivation of small landowners and squires, 94,880,400 acres. The number of male peasants of all classes living by agriculture within the same area recorded in the same year (excluding Poland, the Baltic Provinces and the Caucasus) is 32,501,466. After deducting from the number the Kazaks (Cossacks) of the Don, Astrachan and Orenburg, the village priesthood, small tradesmen and cottage industrials partially occupied in agriculture, the number of actual male peasant agriculturists in the fifty governments of Russia proper is shown to be 29,992,000 souls. Thus the total average allotment of land to the peasants works out according to these figures at 12·744 acres per man. The number of male peasants who have abandoned their holdings on account of inadequacy of land is put at 11,564,934. These enforced emigrants into towns have the right to return to the country, and would no doubt quickly avail themselves of this right if a fresh allotment of the land by expropriation were to take place under the projected schemes of the Douma. Many of them have already expressed to recent interviewers their determination to return to their native villages as soon as the proposed new scheme becomes law, in order to take possession of the farms allotted to them, appoint a member of their family as bailiff, and then go back to their prosperous trading in the

* 141,482,000 dessiatins. † 1 dessiatin = 2·70 acres.

city. What then would be the result if all these 11,564,934 emigrants were to be replanted on the soil with allotments (which include waste land) at the inadequate ratio, according to modern ideas, of 12·74 acres per man? Even this scanty apportionment would require 147,383,517 acres in all: that is, considerably more land than the entire cultivated acreage owned by the small land proprietors and squires, including estates of even less than 30 acres.

Another solution proposed is the appropriation of the estates of the Imperial domains and the land in the possession of the monasteries and churches. But when the nature of these domains and the condition of their surroundings is examined, the extent of land suitable for cultivation by the peasantry shrinks to very inconsiderable proportions. Of the combined total acreage of the Imperial and State domains more than 73 per cent. is forest land with a sandy soil, situated in the extreme northern governments of Vologda, Olonitz and Archangel. Of the rest a large area is forest land too, the bulk of which is leased to the ironmasters of the Oural district. The Church and monastic agricultural lands do not exceed in extent two millions of dessiatins, many of which are worked and cultivated by the monks in support of the monasteries and to provide for the multitude of pilgrims that crowd yearly to the shrines. Viewed practically therefore in all its bearings, the cry of more land for the peasant, at any rate in European Russia, is met by an obvious insufficiency of supply.

THE CITY.

THERE has been a fractional improvement only in the gilt-edged market during the past week, although in the aggregate about £6,000,000 has been distributed in dividends, but very little of this has apparently found its way to the investment market. The first of the three or four corporation issues which are understood to be pending has made its appearance in the form of a 3½ per cent. loan for £620,000 on behalf of the city of Bristol. It is just a year since this corporation floated a similar loan for £755,000, and the proceeds of the present issue are to be applied mainly for the same purpose—the improvement and extension of the Avonmouth docks. The total combined debt of the docks and city is about £7,500,000, in round figures, and the rateable value £1,750,000, so that the loan is well secured, more particularly as most of the debt has been employed in reproductive works. There has been some selling of County Council stock from quarters which are usually well informed, and although a denial has been given to the statement that the Council are about to raise fresh funds, too much importance must not be given to the denial. In the present state of the markets corporation and Government departments become as wary as any City promoter, and loans have been known to come out immediately on the heels of an official indication that no issue was contemplated.

On the whole there has been a more restful feeling in the House and the various rumours as to the difficulties of unnamed firms—both inside and outside of the Exchange—have died away for the moment: but it requires very little to revive these stories which are so detrimental to everybody in an atmosphere which is charged with the existing nervousness and suspicion.

The offering of American railroad short-dated bonds and notes to which we referred in our last issue has continued and it is quite evident that the supply of loanable capital in the United States is quite unequal to the demands made upon it and the companies are compelled to have recourse to Europe on quite onerous terms compared with those which existed only a year ago. The statement has been made that the issue of Panama Bonds for the equivalent of £6,000,000 will be accepted by the Government as a deposit against additional currency notes for a similar amount and if this be correct it will prove an important factor in easing the Money Market when the crops have to be financed. From the various expedients which have been resorted to for the purpose of extending the currency it is quite evident that the time cannot be far distant when the

whole system will have to be thoroughly overhauled, otherwise the warning of Mr. Schiff is likely to prove unfortunately to be well founded.

The outlook in Russia for the present appears to be a little more hopeful and the quotation for the new issue has shown slight improvement whilst the selling from Paris which the heavy fall doubtless induced has been arrested with the result that international stocks and mining shares dealt in on the Paris Bourse have had a better tendency: as regards mining stocks it is of course of a negative character only—it does not mean that any good buying has taken place but merely that there has been less pressure to sell.

One of the most prominent features during the past week has been the steady and heavy fall in the price of Guayaquil and Quito 6 per cent. bonds which are now no better than 55 ex-dividend, being a fall of 23 points since last account. It is very difficult to account for this sensational drop except on the assumption that an organised "bear" raid has been made with very satisfactory results to the "bears" up to the present. These bonds carry the guarantee of the Ecuadorian Government and although past experience of the governments of minor South American States has not been particularly encouraging it does not seem reasonable to suppose that the Government will default within a few months of the completion of the line. A good deal of attention has been given to the affairs of the railway in certain financial papers and various contradictory statements have been made as to the manner in which the line has been constructed but as a result of inquiries we have made we imagine that considerable bias has entered into the affair. One does not expect a London and North-Western in Ecuador but if the line is sufficiently well built for the purpose required and if the resulting trade is promising, it certainly appears unreasonable to condemn the enterprise before any opportunity has been allowed to show whether it is likely to be a commercial success or otherwise.

We see that Mr. Parrish writing with reference to the Lisbon Tramway Company a concern which is a promotion of Messrs. Wernher Beit and Co. makes the suggestion that a Shareholders' Protection Society should be formed "with a central bureau where articles of association, the lists of shareholders, and the annual reports are received and fully analysed, and when anything unusual is found in connexion with any particular company, that a circular should be sent to the shareholders of such companies calling attention to it". We have on several occasions advocated the formation of an association on somewhat similar lines and we should be glad to see the matter take practical shape as we quite agree with Mr. Parrish that "there are thousands of shareholders in many companies who would be benefited by such an institution, and many bad bargains would be nipped in the bud, or prevented, if those responsible were liable to immediate publicity".

INSURANCE.

THE PURCHASE OF THE STAR.

A PROVISIONAL agreement has been entered into for the purchase of the Star Life Office by the United Kingdom Temperance Institution. It is quite appropriate that the business of the Star should be disposed of to a more successful company. The financial position of the society is quite sound, but its recent bonus results have been very poor, and the bonus prospects for the future are not such as to suggest any substantial improvement. It is fairly well known that the foreign business of the society has not been a success, and we cannot discover a policy of any kind in the Star which is so good for the assured as policies which can be obtained from some other companies. In these circumstances the office is wise to cease its separate existence. As far as we have seen the terms of the agreement are quite fair. The shareholders who have paid up 25s. on each share are to receive £50 a share. Star shares have been selling for something like £35, and a few years ago were quoted at £65. Inasmuch as the proprietors have received £115,000 in

the course of the past fifteen years in the form of bonuses upon the share capital of £5,000, in addition to a regular dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, the payment of £200,000 to the representatives of those who paid £5,000 sixty years ago cannot be considered too much. We understand that somewhat contrary to the usual practice the services of the manager of the Star are to be retained without any increased salary. This is a pleasant contrast with the exceptionally good bargains which the officials of some companies make for themselves when sales or transfers are negotiated. The future management expenses of the present assurances in the Star are to be limited to 10 per cent. of the premiums, with the probable result that the bonuses will be better than the policyholders would have received if the Star had continued without amalgamation. Thus from the point of view of the Star proprietors and policyholders the sale of the business is a good arrangement, while the insuring public is not deprived of any opportunities of assuring to advantage because of the unattractive nature of Star policies.

The United Kingdom Temperance Institution is one of the most successful mutual life offices. It is one of the comparatively few companies which value their liabilities on the stringent basis of interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Its management expenses are at the low rate of 12 per cent. of the premium income and the large bonuses which it declares make its policies some of the most attractive that can be obtained. We presume that the directors of the United Kingdom anticipate that by buying the Star they will be able to reduce their rate of expenditure and increase their bonuses. Unless it is clear that the absorption of the Star will have these effects it is foolish for a mutual office to buy another company. The participating policyholders, who are the only people to be considered, gain nothing by the business being made larger. There does not seem any likelihood of the business being made better by the adoption of the proposed agreement. An increased rate of expenditure is an almost necessary consequence of employing two agency organisations to do the work which is already effectively accomplished by one. We have repeatedly pointed out that a large new business is more likely to do harm than good to the participating policyholders of a life assurance company, and a somewhat increased new business is about the only result which the United Kingdom will derive from buying the Star.

When it was first rumoured that the Star was to be taken over by another office it was supposed that the purchaser would be a proprietary company whose shareholders would probably gain and whose policyholders would probably lose by the transaction. The only reason of any sort or kind which we can invent for the action of the United Kingdom is that both the companies have strong connexions among dissenters: one result of this is that they probably come into competition with each other more than with other offices. Competition with the United Kingdom Temperance would be inconvenient for the Star, but it can scarcely be supposed that the competition of the Star would cause any trouble to the United Kingdom. It may be taken for granted, however, that the combined offices with funds of £15,000,000 will appeal very strongly to the classes among whom both companies have principally worked.

AMERICAN "AMATEURS" AT HENLEY.

IN our issue of 24 March we published a review of an American book on rowing written by Mr. Crowther, who was one of the crew which represented Pennsylvania University at Henley in 1900. We have often suspected the American "amateur"; we have sometimes even doubted his existence, but it was not until we read Mr. Crowther's book that we could quote from an authoritative source actual facts which showed that a taint of professionalism and of unfair dealing has all along been present in American rowing. We quoted from Mr. Crowther several instances of this. He narrates that in 1843, in one of their University

racers, one crew lashed a stone to the keel of their opponents' boat and so "cleverly" won the race. He tells of the stroke of a crew which competed here at Henley who was found to have sold the race and who was afterwards imprisoned for "a ghoulis crime". In short, Mr. Crowther gave so vivid a description of the difficulties with which the handful of bona-fide amateurs in the United States have to contend that we concluded our review of his book with these words: "The whole history of these races and of rowing in America must arouse the sympathy of rowing-men in this country with Mr. Crowther and his friends in their honourable endeavour to purify the sport in the United States and raise the standard of the amateur in America, but there is nothing in the book which should cause the Henley Stewards to relax in the slightest degree the strictness of their inquiries into the status and amateur qualification of every American competitor who enters for Henley Regatta".

It has now come out that at the time when we were expressing those opinions an inquiry was taking place into the status and conduct of the crew of the "Vesper Club" from Pennsylvania which competed at Henley last year. The results of that inquiry have been published, and the immediate effect has been that Mr. W. A. L. Fletcher has given notice that at the next meeting of the Henley Stewards he will move "That in future no entries be accepted from the United States of America". The facts of the case have disclosed the perpetration of so gross a fraud on the Henley Stewards that one has only to study them in order to be convinced that Mr. Fletcher's somewhat drastic motion is absolutely justified. There exists in the United States a body known as the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen, which came into existence for the purpose of exercising control over amateur rowing in America and of seeing that the laws of amateur sport were not infringed at American regattas. The Henley Stewards had some sort of arrangement with this National Association, as they have with the federations or associations which govern rowing in other countries, by which the National Association were to inquire into the position and antecedents of any Americans who might enter for Henley Regatta, and to keep the Henley Stewards informed. When the Vesper crew entered for the Grand Challenge Cup last year, their entry was accompanied by the sworn declaration of each man to the effect that he was an amateur according to the English definition and that he had done nothing to affect adversely his amateur status here. When these sworn declarations were forwarded, letters passed between the National Association and the Henley Stewards leading the Henley Stewards to believe that the National Association had inquired into the antecedents of the Vesper men and that all was in order. The Vesper crew came, saw and were beaten. No question was raised as to their amateur status, but neither their appearance nor their demeanour was calculated to raise the English rowing man's opinion of the "amateur" from America. It now appears that they had at the very outset acted contrarily to the whole spirit of amateur sport by having their expenses defrayed by public subscription, and it was owing to this circumstance that their other delinquencies came to light. Questions were asked after their return to Pennsylvania as to the expenditure of the money which had been subscribed. It was suggested that some of the fund had been misappropriated and an inquiry was held by the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen. The Henley Stewards asked for full details of that inquiry, and the result was published by them after the last meeting of the Committee of Management. It appeared that several of the Vesper crew were not and never had been amateurs according to our definition, that all of them had actually received payment for rowing at Henley, that no proper account had been kept of the funds which had been subscribed, that the sworn declarations sent to the Henley Stewards were false and that the National Association had allowed these false entries to be forwarded to Henley without making any inquiry as to their truth.

The Henley authorities occupy a difficult position. They have hitherto felt bound to assume that their regulations have been observed and that every entrant

is an amateur until the contrary is proved, with the result that in the case of the Vesper crew they were deceived by perjured declarations, and were made the victims of a piece of trickery which fortunately finds no parallel in the history of English rowing. The worst feature, however, of the whole case remains to be told. Not only did the American National Association allow these Vesper entries to be forwarded to Henley, backed by their recommendation, but after the inquiry had been held and after the whole of their knavery had been exposed, the only sentence which this National Association thought fit to pass was that several of the Vesper crew should be suspended for one year from rowing as amateurs in America. The mere fact that such a sentence should have been thought sufficient for so grave an offence confirms the worst suspicions which we have entertained as to American "amateurism".

It is unfortunately true that we have seen in recent years a great growth of professionalism and semi-professionalism in this country in various branches of athletic sport. Thousands of young men instead of playing football or taking vigorous and health-giving exercise spend their Saturday afternoons in watching matches between teams of hired professional footballers. Many of our so-called amateur cricketers live not only for cricket, but by cricket, and receive their pay under the thin disguise of salary as secretary of a county club, or remuneration for some services rendered to some rich supporter of the game. A man who devotes the best part of his life to a game, whether he is paid directly, indirectly or not at all, is making it his profession, and the true amateur in any branch of sport is one who devotes to that sport his spare time after attending to the ordinary business of life.

English rowing-men have fought hard and successfully to keep their sport pure and free from the professional taint. Those who wished to widen our amateur definition in this country have given up the contest and have started non-amateur organisations and regattas of their own; and we are confident that the Henley Stewards will receive the cordial support of our Amateur Rowing Association and of the whole body of English oarsmen when they take steps to prevent the contamination of Henley by semi-professional competitors whencesoever they come. We have always been opposed to the admission of any foreign entries at Henley. They are entirely contrary to the spirit of the regatta. They often cause the best of our oarsmen to combine into one or two strong crews instead of rowing for the college or club which really has the first call upon their services. The conditions of the competition are unfair in the case of a race between a foreign crew who have rowed together for months, and say a Leander crew who could only be collected from their various studies or occupations for a couple of weeks. In fact the only persons upon whom foreign competition and the public interest that it creates confer any benefit are those who make money out of the regatta, such as the boat-builder, tradesman, and caterer. The exclusion of foreign competitors was proposed by Dr. Warre and others four or five years ago, but the Stewards considered it was then too late to make the change, and it is certainly too late now to reopen that question. If however we are to have competitors from foreign countries we must take every care that they are amateurs according to our definition, and men who are likely to make no endeavour to win that is not absolutely fair and above board. We trust that the Stewards will make an example of those who have deceived them by passing Mr. Fletcher's resolution, or at any rate by intimating that no entries from the United States will be received until they have set their house in order and started a governing body which we can trust not to deceive us. We suppose there are some real amateurs in America. Let them cut themselves absolutely adrift from their semi-professional friends; for until they have done so we have no desire to see our oarsmen competing against them. Henley was meant for gentlemen.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE.

FRANKLY—and it is useless to be anything but frank in one's contributions on music—I never felt more profoundly humiliated than during last week's visit of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Eighteen years ago I spent some months in Vienna. My musical education at Leipzig had commenced, and I went to the Austrian capital firm in the conviction that the Gewandhaus Orchestra at the German centre of music was the finest body of instrumentalists in the world, and that the Leipzig Opera, although inferior to Dresden and perhaps to other places in respect of the quality of singers and luxurious stage setting, reached the highest standard in other respects. Vienna was a revelation. I shall never forget the first impression made on me—a raw student of settled convictions on the subject of Leipzig—by that unique fellowship of veterans under the leadership of Dr. Richter. It was an emotion that could never be repeated. The ensemble was like the swelling undulations of the ocean; one could hardly believe that even the inspired bâton of their chief could achieve such perfect discipline. I am not ashamed to remember the emotion with which, in those young and far-off days, I listened to a rendering of the Tannhäuser overture by that superb orchestra which surpassed all anticipation. Scores of times have I heard the overture during the interval of years which have passed since that first occasion at Vienna; but no performance of the work approached the same standard of excellence until Saturday last, when the same splendid body of musicians—changed, perhaps, in some material aspects, but unchanged in quality or spirit—played it at Albert Hall as their farewell number.

These masters of orchestral playing, numbering 117 instrumentalists, many of whom are the most accomplished soloists, came over from Vienna at the expense of Herr Krupp. The proceeds of the concerts were destined for the King Edward Hospital Fund and the Austro-Hungarian Francis Joseph Institute. It is true to say, therefore, that an opportunity was offered to all lovers of music in the greatest city in the world to hear the finest existing orchestra at a price which, commensurate with the vast expense of the undertaking, made every ticket of admittance a semi-gift. And what was the response? One might have supposed that the doors of Queen's Hall would be besieged, and that Albert Hall, in spite of its colossal proportions, would be scarcely adequate to contain the great overflow of those who had been unable to secure seats for either of the two former concerts. Nothing of the kind happened. Even the presence of the King—although it drew numbers of idlers with opera-glasses and lorgnettes who arrived late and left early, after nearly yawning their heads off—failed to lend a decent appearance of public support to the Albert Hall desert, where arid patches of empty chairs provided in every direction pregnant evidence of the artistic desolation of British culture. Whilst at Queen's Hall, both on Tuesday and Thursday evening of the foregoing week, I noticed a sad percentage of vacant seats within the range of my observation. From what sections of society were these audiences drawn? The presence of royal persons brought many fashionable subscribers to their boxes in the Albert Hall, and accounted for many scores of rustling interrupters from the Park hard by, who thought it the proper thing in the circumstances to purchase a guinea stall and put in an appearance for an hour of purgatory. At Queen's Hall there was no attraction beyond the Vienna Orchestra. Many foreigners of all nationalities were present, and listened to the music with the silence of intelligent enjoyment. Frenchmen, Germans, Austrians, Russians, and every type of Jew were in evidence. Leading British musicians found time—probably without difficulty—to appreciate, with all the intellectual delight of connoisseurs, the unrivalled qualities of their colleagues from Vienna. And there was a solid sprinkling of middle-class concert-goers from the suburbs, who appear to furnish the backbone of all musical enterprise in the benighted Metropolis.

Where were the rest of the world? If great musical performances of this unique character are supported solely by foreigners, professed musicians, and ladies

and gentlemen from the outlying districts, supplemented, in all probability, by a liberal shower of free tickets bestowed upon anybody who is anxious to exhibit a new evening blouse, it is useless to pretend—as some people persistently do—that we are a musical nation. It never was impressed upon my mind so vividly as last week that we are at present, in the cultured bulk, a nation of Philistines of the first water. Our élite have certainly an art of their own manufacture which is also excellent of its kind. They have brought to a perfection rarely equalled anywhere on the Continent the arts of washing, dressing, sleeping, and eating. In no country of the old world are bodies kept so fresh and appetising through soap and water, or more daintily and suitably attired. Their sleeping arrangements are the quintessence of health and sanitation; the elegance and luxury of their service of meals have elevated the domestic side of English life to a fine art. I should be sorry to disparage these virtues, which might with advantage in some respects become national ideals; but their cultivation seems to have involved a fatal neglect of things of even greater moment than the ultra-refinement of the coarse necessities of everyday existence. Nobody has heard anything quite like the musical amateur in England, who, in his or her worst phase, has only become possible through the low standard of artistic appreciation that characterises the average English family circle. It is far better for us to face the truth in this respect than to make ourselves ridiculous in the eyes of other nations by affecting that we are musical or artistic as a race. The visit of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra to these islands was premature. They should have waited for their successors to see if future generations would find more leisure in the intervals between filling their stomachs on the highest plane of culture and driving motor-cars to stimulate the appetite, to cultivate a musical taste which has practically died out—if it ever existed at all—amongst those who should be the natural patrons of the arts. Or, if Herr Krupp desires to repeat his generous experiment at some future date, may I recommend him, in all sincerity, to import the audience as well as the players?

One last word of criticism. Without detracting in any way from Herr Franz Schalk's sterling merits as a conductor, it may be frankly stated that the unique attraction of the visit lay in the concerted body of instrumentalists. I should like to avoid personal comparisons; but I may say without offence that Mr. Henry Wood, to quote no other example, has established so high a standard of directing ability at our own orchestral concerts that a new-comer, unless he be a Dr. Richter, can only hope to impress by his individuality. Herr Schalk certainly gave an excellent account of himself in this respect. His readings were musicianly; and, without any undue strain after effect, they were his own. He was also modest. Many a time he laid down the conductor's bâton to demonstrate, with pardonable pride and generous self-effacement, the extraordinary capability of the collective players under his control, who continued their masterly ensemble, notwithstanding the momentary withdrawal of the guiding hand, with unfaltering precision. Such conductors we have known; but never, in the history of British concert enterprise, have we had amongst us such a body of artists as the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. It is only distressing to think that they cannot have carried away with them the same profound respect for the English as a musical nation which they inspired, in regard to themselves, in those of us—foreigners, Jews, suburbanites and professed musicians—who offered them our inadequate but hearty and appreciative welcome to these Philistine shores.

Before concluding this article I should like to make a brief allusion to Miss Nellie Chaplin's performance at S. George's Hall on Saturday, 30 June, of old dances and dance music. The idea was well carried out, with an almost Arcadian simplicity, which made the entertainment doubly effective. All the dancers were, I presume, amateurs; and several amongst them executed their quaint little dances with grace and skill. Why do not girls devote themselves more often to this charming accomplishment, instead of banging the

pianoforte or shrieking sentimental songs to raucous accompaniments? Everybody was delighted at the S. George's Hall performance, and its undoubted success might have suggested to an enterprising man of business an attractive entertainment of the same kind, less historical, more elaborate, and on a grander scale. I am sure that Miss Nellie Chaplin would rise to the occasion, if such an opportunity were afforded her and her co-workers, and she deserves the warmest thanks for initiating a new departure of so much novelty and charm.

HAROLD E. GORST.

THE WARWICK PAGEANT.

ENGLISH people like other civilised races of Western Europe have a natural craving for spectacular display and dramatic art. Before the Reformation an "elaborate spectacular ceremonial" (to quote the words of a Royal Commission's report) in the churches fostered and refined this taste, which, when a Genevan prelate had driven history and romance from the sanctuary, found a new expression in the brilliant masques and pageants and revels of the last days of merry England. Even when our religious life was whelmed in the welter of Puritan theologies and our upper and middle class had grown strangers alike to the poetry of chivalry and the intellectual freedom of the Renaissance, the poor still under every hindrance clung to the childish drama and show of Robin Hood and Maid Marion and S. George and the Dragon and the Moor. The revival of the pageant in our own time is no resuscitation of an anachronism; it is simply a return to an ordinary and healthy taste too long suppressed by an unnatural and often hypocritical prejudice. That the natives of a place like Warwick should have thrown themselves enthusiastically into a piece of mummery, not only as spectators, but also as performers is a welcome proof that "respectability" in our country districts is breaking the fetters of the régime of Puritanism, tempered by public houses, under which it has languished for centuries. If such a pageant as that which has been seen this week on Avon side had no other purpose than the production of a brilliant old-world display in a somewhat sombre age, it would have its uses. The idea however which it embodies is more ambitious, for it is the idea of historic patriotism. In this matter it must be owned, the modern pageant differs from the pageant of the older day. Historic patriotism in the modern sense was unknown either to the England of the knightly years or to the England of the Renaissance. Not that the mediæval time at best was oblivious in its devoirs to the past; but those devoirs it performed vicariously through the priest who sang the Mass for the souls that had passed away. The spectacles that it affected like the May Day revel, or the destruction of the dragon by S. George, made no special appeal to local feeling. S. George and his dragon embodied the ordinary sentiment of the still undivided Christianity of the West, and would have been as much relished in the fourteenth-century Sicily as in the fourteenth-century Warwickshire. Likewise with the Elizabethan pageants. Their tone was classical; with their dolphins and Arions, their Dianas and Apollos, they symbolised the dream of the sages of all Western Europe to escape alike from the scholasticism and feudalism of the past, and the Protestantism and bureaucracy of the future, to the free life (as it was deemed) of the days when the gods of Olympus were known of mortal men.

The modern pageant is therefore distinguished in this, that it is consciously historical and that it makes its special appeal to local patriotism on its noblest side. To a pageant of this character the myths and history and romance that have gathered round the castle and glades of Warwickshire offer picturesque scenes. Criticism might indeed suggest that, if picturesque, the genuine historical scenes in the pageant that related to Warwick itself were in the main a trifle tame. This is true. The mediæval story of many a town on the Scotch or Welsh border would have yielded more thrilling tableaux of arms and heroes. The representation of the tale of some village in far-off Cornwall or the West where the peasant seized his scythe and rushed

to the field to die perchance for the old Faith, perchance for the open Bible and "King Monmouth", would have shown more of the tragedy of our history. Yet the story of Warwick in its very tameness is essentially the history of England. And this is natural. Warwickshire is at the centre of England. In Warwickshire Briton and Saxon and Dane and Norman have fused together as they have done perhaps nowhere else in the island, and the fruit of the union has been the most distinctively English of all English counties and Shakespeare.

A fairer scene for the Pageant than the glades which surround the old towers of the Nevills no artist could desire. The spacious mead, the background of river and hill and wood lent themselves for a realistic display such as would be possible in no theatre on earth. A Druid chorus heralded the opening of each scene and we watched and passed through the ages. First we saw again the days when the thundering march of the Roman legion startled the free-born sons of Celtic Britain to a vain fight for freedom. (For Warwick by the way to have appropriated Caradog was a cruel wrong to Wales and Shropshire.) Next we were living in the days when Arthur and Queen Guenevere dwelt at Caerleon. And we saw moving before us a Bishop of the old British Church who had set the crown on the great King's head. And we looked on in wonder as his followers brought to Govan the mighty, the saviour from the Picts of the land we saw, the ragged staff and the mighty bear, that will live for ever on the shield of the house of Warwick. Three hundred years have flown and we are at last in the realm of real history, for we see Ethelfleda the daughter of King Alfred and Lady of the Mercians ride into Warwick in her hour of triumph over the terrible Dane and hear the cheers of the natives, who dream that these furies of the North shall come to spoil their homes no more.

From the hard prose of masculine Queens and Danish pirates we entered again the land of legend, where burlesque and pathos strangely were blended in the chase of the dun cow and the earlier and later love of Guy of Warwick for the Earl's daughter Phyllis.

Then came some delightful moments when the Middle Age with its cavaliers and banners and mail-clad men was "glorious on earth again". One of these scenes showed us the insolence and the doom of the first luckless favourites of that poor crowned butterfly, the second Edward. It was indeed a grim sight to see that luckless Gaveston, whose hobby it was to do a day's digging with his royal master, haled for judgment before his pitiless foes, those nobles in whom perhaps by his biting gibes rather than by his evil deeds he had awakened a fearful craving for his blood. It was a dread moment when from the throats of these mail-clad men, whose faces their helms had hidden, there came the short sharp cry "Death" and the captive knew what it meant to be in the grip of the Lord of Warwick, whom he had too truly called the black hound of Arden.

So the poor butterflies and titled wolves of a feeble age pass and the grander figures of the days of the Roses War tread the stage. We are in the S. Martin's summer of the House of Lancaster, when the greatest man who ever bore the name of Warwick, the maker and unmaker of kings, was tearing if but for a brief moment from the head of the White Rose King the crown that he had placed there on Towton field.

"When you disgrac'd me in my embassy,
Then I degraded you from being king,
And come now to create you Duke of York."

It was a melancholy thought that the hero Earl who stood before you, in deed and truth the last of the barons, lived only in the dreams of the child of Warwick's land, who was the greatest of the world's dramatists. The true Warwick was a great plotter and a poor soldier, who died an inglorious death as he fled from his White Rose foes to hide in the woods of Barnet.

And now we are in the later Tudor day, and as the guilds of brother Butchers, Pointmakers, Glovers, and the rest stand by a vacant throne, and my Lord of Warwick is talking with Leycester, and the bailiff and burgesses of the good town of Warwick and their

wives and children are foregathered in their bravery, and the banners wave and the horses prance and the air is full of mirth, one listens to the madrigal—

"See where she comes, with flow'ry garlands crowned,
Queen of all Queens renowned.
Then sang the shepherds and nymphs of Diana,
'Long live fair Oriana'."

And as the last note of the madrigal dies away the royal coach drives up and behind it ride My Lord of Burghley and My Lord Howard of Effingham.

And there is a great shout raised and a flourish of trumpets and a roll of drums, as Queen Elizabeth smiles on her subjects of Warwick once more. But there is a king in the crowd though he is but an eight-year child and will never wear a crown. The bailiff of Stratford-on-Avon has brought his merry eight-year-old boy William, and him the Queen calls forth and kisses.

They are ended, the speeches, the stately dance of the courtiers, and the grotesque buffoonery of the crowd, and the time for the passing has come. And as Oriana moves betwixt the guilds with their banners, and the dancers with their garlands, under an avenue of swords to the barge that must soon carry her away, we feel that with her the days of joy and chivalry are passing from the land of England. So that there was nought in all that brave Pageant that moved the gazers more than the passing of the barge that bore Elizabeth back to Avalon.

THE RED DOG.

THERE are now in the Zoological Gardens three red wild dogs (*Kyon dukhunensis*). They are not yet full grown and certainly are far from noble-looking beasts. The red dog never reaches the size of a wolf, though it exceeds that of a jackal. Its shape is uncouth, the body narrow, and low in the forequarters, with loose limbs ending in large awkward paws, the head and brush carried low. The head, remarkable for the large blunt furry ears, is intermediate between the domestic dog and fox, without the honest look of the one or the quick-witted sharpness of the other. Against these disadvantages the bright chestnut hue of the wild dog's coat, shading into black at the end of the brush, does not avail for handsomeness.

Over most of India it is to be found, on mountains and in plains, in forest where forest grows, and about the bare slopes where the hills have not vegetation. East of India a very similar beast ranges even to Java, and another, paler and shaggier, haunts Siberia and Saghalien, so that over most of Asia one form or other is to be reckoned with. Naturally the Indian species is the best known; yet it is not known at all intimately, for though so widely spread it is not a common animal and the field naturalists of India have little to say of it. But it is clear that the red dog is a very different animal from the wolf, and far superior to any other Eastern canine. Most of the wild relatives of our dogs are cowardly beasts, feeding on carrion and small animals, and only attacking large ones when hard pressed by hunger—such is the wolf's way of life; while the jackal skulks round villages and sometimes enters large towns in search of scraps, making night hideous with his howls even in Calcutta. But the red dog is a true hunter, the deadliest foe to the game animals that is known in the East. He is not very swift—less so than the jackal—nor is he adroit at the double or graceful in his actions, but he follows the scent, mostly in silence, with a deadly persistence, and however long the trail may be the pack runs into their victim without fail in the end. They do not go in large numbers—a dozen would be a big pack—but what they want in force is replaced by their courage and cunning strategy in attack.

Their ordinary prey may be seen alongside of them, and in other parts of the gardens; the powerful sambur deer and the beautiful spotted axis, corresponding to our red deer and fallow deer; the various antelopes of the plains and wild goats of the hills. All of these they harry in turn for a few days; then the terrified beasts forsake that section of the jungle, and the red pack

must range far afield again, not to return till long after, when the terror of their raid has subsided in the locality. Their methods of attack are terrible in the extreme; some of their devices indeed can hardly be mentioned here. Suffice it to say that their ordinary plan, whenever possible, is to disembowel the victim. Sanderson, of elephant-catching fame, saw two chase a spotted doe past his camp, where one of the pursuers stopped short; the other, within springing distance already, made two lightning snaps, and the doe fell in a few steps with entrails protruding. A buck of the same species was coursed by three, and when he fell under their attack the human interrupters of the chase found about four pounds of flesh torn in a few bites from his thighs. A year or two ago an observer reported to the Bombay Natural History Society the finding of a sambar stag which had evidently been attacked from the front while drinking at a pool, for he was uninjured behind. But the pool was churned up and the trees splashed high with blood, while the stag lay with his neck bitten nearly through, a nine-inch length of his windpipe having been torn out and flung aside; and only three dogs seem to have done the work, and brought a beast bigger than a red stag to this death.

But deer are not the only prey on which these terrible creatures adventure; the biggest horns known of the gaur (*Bos gaurus*) came from one said to have been killed by wild dogs, of the Burmese race in this case; and yet the gaur, the largest of all wild oxen, is too much for the ordinary tiger. And the tiger often fails with the boar, the most gallant of all wild animals, but the red pack will bring him to his end. Their fellow-carnivores even are not safe; the black bear of the Himalayas, although the fiercest of Indian bears, has been seen in his last struggle with the pack, with torn coat and flesh in strips, fighting gamely still, and not without effect, as one or two corpses testified. Native rumour universally alleges that the tiger himself is not respected; certainly the red devils drive off his prey and make him change his hunting-grounds, so that it is no wonder he leaves the jungle when they enter it. But the two parties are likely to come into collision over prey, whichever has taken it; or there may be no prey available, and the ravenous pack must eat. The conflict must be terrible, and the tiger does not die unavenged. But he does sometimes die, no doubt. Sanderson, from the horrible injuries he saw inflicted on the unhappy deer, thought the tiger himself could be disposed of by such means, and mentions that on more than one occasion he has seen him flee from ordinary cur-dogs. And with the red dog whatever flees is lost; the only chance is to make a stand. When this is done, the whole pack may apparently die fighting; at least the serow (*Nemorhædus bubalinus*) a fierce goat-antelope of the hills, has been found dead along with his persecutors, and this rare and gallant beast has the credit of sometimes beating them off altogether, no doubt because he haunts precipices and caves, where defence would be easier.

Curiously enough, the red dog never attacks man, though he shows, in many cases, little fear of him. Yet he is not easy to tame as a rule, and authors agree in condemning his invincible surliness in captivity. This, however, is not universal; the specimens in the Zoo are simply shy, and some kept in the Calcutta Gardens would feed from the hand, though with a disconcertingly ravenous spring and snap that gave one some idea of their tactics towards their prey. But the beast is a very rare one in captivity, and, like most actively hunting creatures, does not bear prison life so well as the meaner carrion-feeders of its race.

It certainly has nothing to do with the origin of the tame dog, which is believed to trace its descent to the wolf and jackal, mean, but perfectly domesticable creatures; unless the dingo of Australia, which, however it got there, is simply a dog now, is really our dog in its wild state.

Not only does the Indian wild dog leave man alone, but, seldom approaching his abodes, it is not destructive as a rule to his domestic animals, though of course these fall victims, if they come in its way, as certainly as the wild game. But its ravages in the jungle make it cordially hated by sportsmen, who think the tiger quite capable of keeping down the four-

footed game to a working average; and object to these canine Berserkers turning the jungle upside down, spoiling sport, and driving hard-working game-killing tigers to prey on cattle and thus come into collision with men. It has been suggested that a price should be put on the wild-dogs' heads, and much as one may admire their dare-devil courage, it must be admitted that their repression, so far as is possible, would make more than anything else for the peace of the jungles.

BRIDGE.

OUR article of a fortnight ago on "Ping-Pong" bridge appears to have attracted considerable attention. We have heard from several sources of the game having been given a trial, and in every case the verdict is decidedly favourable. It really is quite a bright and entertaining little game, very simple and easy to understand, and at the same time a game that affords plenty of scope for skill in the play of the cards. Although it is quite a new form of bridge, it is not really a new game. It is own brother to a variety of whist for two players, which was at one time—some twenty years ago—played in London for high stakes under the title of "Humbug". The methods of play at Humbug were precisely the same as at Ping-Pong bridge. Four hands were dealt, and each player had the option of playing his own hand or of exchanging it for the unknown hand on his left, but at Humbug there was no doubled liability when a player exchanged, that is an innovation of Ping-Pong bridge, and one that adds a great deal of interest to the game. The main skill in Ping-Pong bridge lies in forcing the opponent to lead up to tenaces in one's own hand, and also in drawing deductions, from the opponent's declaration, and from the suits which he leads, as to where he is likely to be unguarded, or, at any rate, not strong. Sequences, whatever the size of them, are the most useful things to hold, as they can be led from with absolute impunity. Failing any sequences, the numerically strongest suit should be opened, and it should be led from the highest downwards, as it is quite possible that all the missing high cards may be in the unknown hands. Ping-Pong bridge is essentially a game of speculation, but speculation of a light and amusing kind.

DOUBLE DUMMY BRIDGE.

The most common objection to double dummy bridge is that it is too laborious and too scientific a game. Laborious it may be, but not ultra-scientific. There is not a tithe of the skill required to play double dummy that is required to play ordinary four-handed bridge really well. Directly the hands are exposed the position of every card is known, and the opportunities for the exercise of skill are comparatively rare. Much more often the result of the hand is a foregone conclusion, and the playing the cards out, trick by trick, is merely a waste of time. That is the tedious feature of double dummy, that there is so much shuffling and dealing for so little play. Also, the most charming characteristic of ordinary bridge, the play of a No Trump hand against two opponents, whose hands are unknown to one another, is entirely wanting. The No Trump call still exists, but all the sting is gone from it, and, instead of being the strongest weapon that the dealer can possess, it becomes a very dangerous call, because the opponent will know as much about the position of the cards as the dealer does himself. There is very rarely any scope for play in a No Trump hand at double dummy. So much depends upon the original lead and upon the placing of the cards that the result of the hand is usually perfectly obvious after the first card is led.

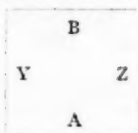
Where the opportunity for the exercise of skill does arise is with suit declarations, and the inexperienced bridge player may learn many useful lessons from studying double dummy hands with care and attention. The most useful lesson that he will learn is the disadvantage of opening fresh suits. It so often happens that one or two tricks in a suit must be won by the side which does not open that particular suit.

The following hand is an instance of this. Score, A B 6, Y Z 24.

A deals and declares hearts. Y leads the king of spades.

Hearts—9, 8, 4, 3.
Diamonds—Ace, knave, 4.
Clubs—Ace, king, 5.
Spades—Knave, 6, 2.

Hearts—Ace, 5.
Diamonds—10, 8, 6, 3.
Clubs—9, 8, 3.
Spades—King, queen,
10, 9.



Hearts—10, 6.
Diamonds—Queen, 7, 2.
Clubs—Queen, 10, 6, 2.
Spades—Ace, 7, 5, 4.

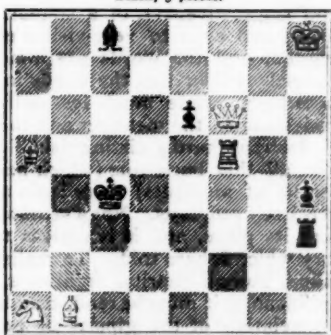
Hearts—King, queen, knave, 7, 2.
Diamonds—King, 9, 5.
Clubs—Knave, 7, 4.
Spades—8, 3.

The player of Y Z requires five tricks to save the game, and he can at once see a certainty of four of them, two in spades, one in hearts (trumps), and one in clubs; also, he will be sure to win one trick in diamonds, provided his opponent opens that suit. His one aim and object, therefore, should be to avoid being obliged to open the diamond suit, and to accomplish this he must get rid of his high cards as soon as possible, so that his opponent cannot put him in after the trumps are exhausted and compel him to lead the diamonds. His king of spades wins the first trick and then comes the question of how he is to proceed. The most obvious course would seem to be to go on with the spade suit and to force the strong hand, but if he does this he loses the game. His opponent will take out his trumps, then lead three rounds of clubs, putting him in with the queen, and he will be obliged to open the diamonds, or to lead a suit which one of his opponent's hands will trump and the other discard on. At the second trick Y must lead a club, B will win it and will lead a trump, which Y wins with the ace. Y then leads another club to make Z's queen good, and when Z is put in with the queen of clubs he can go on with the spades and force A, leaving him no alternative but to open the diamond suit, and so the game will be saved.

CHESS.

PROBLEM 82. By VALENTIN MARIN (Spain).

Black, 5 pieces.



White, 6 pieces.

White to mate in two moves.

PROBLEM 83. By VALENTIN MARIN (Spain).—White: K-K3, Q-KR7, R-QKt7, B-QKt1, Kt-Q6, Pawns on KR4, QKt2. Black: K-QB4, R-KR3, B-KR1, Pawns on KR4, K4, QB3, QKt6, QR2. White to mate in three moves.

Solutions to above will be duly acknowledged.

KEY TO PROBLEM 81, JESPERSEN: 1. R-QKt2; if P×R, then 2. B-B4(ch).

Our problems this week, by the player who easily ranks first in his own land, are two minor pictures suitable to the state of the barometer. Though Spain has fallen on evil days as regards players of the highest rank, it possesses in Valentin Marin a composer of

world-wide reputation, combining great constructive genius with marked originality. Some of his more elaborate efforts strike one as ugly and unpromising at first, but once the kernel is extricated one invariably finds a brain-haunting idea—"the only vital breath"—rarely humorous, as in transatlantic problems, but always pungent and masterly.

It may be added that the thorny question as to the immorality of "duals" does not perturb this composer provided the theme is brilliantly worked out and the mating positions attractive.

CHESS AT OSTEND.

The feature of the middle stage of the tournament has been the regrettable elimination of several well-known veterans. We append a skirmish between two of the younger masters.

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING.

| White | Black | White | Black |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Swederski | Spielmann | Swederski | Spielmann |

| | | | |
|---------|------|-----------|-------|
| 1. P-Q4 | P-Q4 | 2. Kt-KB3 | P-QB4 |
|---------|------|-----------|-------|

Modern practitioners attach much importance to the early advance of the pawn in the close game. It must on no account remain stationary.

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|------|
| 3. P-K3 | Kt-QB3 | 5. B-K2 | B-B4 |
| 4. QKt-Q2 | Kt-B3 | 6. P×P | P-K4 |

The right moment to push the king's pawn is usually a delicate step, and marks the master hand, but here it is fairly obvious.

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| 7. B-Kt5 | Q-B2 | 10. P-QR3 | Castles, KR |
| 8. P-QKt4 | B-K2 | 11. P-B4 | B-Q6 |
| 9. B-Kt2 | Kt-Q2 | | |

White seems too eager to crush his opponent; this counter-stroke paralyses his army in the manner of a searchlight.

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|----------------|-------|
| 12. Q-Kt3 | P-K5 | 16. Q×P | B-B3 |
| 13. B×Kt | P×B | 17. Kt×P | QR-Q1 |
| 14. P×P | P×P | 18. Kt-Q6 | Kt-B5 |
| 15. Kt-Q4 | Kt×K4 | 19. Kt(Q4)-Kt5 | Kt×B |

A bombshell in the camp! White's game, however, was inferior, owing to the enforced idleness of his rooks.

| | | | |
|-----------|------|----------|---------|
| 20. Q-Kt3 | Q-B3 | 22. P×B | R×Kt |
| 21. Kt-Q4 | B×Kt | 23. Q×Kt | Q-K5ch |
| | | | Resigns |

CORRESPONDENCE.

CANNING AND CIBBER.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Brenchley, 1 July, 1906.

SIR,—I asked for light, and I am offered an "Act of Parliament or surgical operation". I fear that not even in an autumn session will Mr. Birrell find time to lay his hand on my thick skull, and the operation I must respectfully decline.

Mr. Bartholeyns is not quite fair about the "so-called Goldsmith explanation". I did not suggest that it was originally given of this particular jest, only that my friends adopted the doctor's words in Canning's case. Surely Mr. Bartholeyns knows the story of Goldsmith and the peas?

Tom Moore did on one occasion "conceive a witticism to depend on the manner of its utterance". He walked an hour with Sydney Smith and laughed consumedly all the time, but on reviewing the conversation at home could not remember a single thing that seemed funny (vide Russell's *Memoirs of Tom Moore*, but I have lost the reference). This then is one of the impossibilities that "went through the hollow mockery of happening".

After all, I can quite see the humour of answering a fool according to her folly. I only fail to see the wit.

Mr. Bartholeyns is kinder to me about Cibber. Will he pardon me if I say that his instances of vigorous old age remind me a little of King Canute's bishop?

"Adam, Enoch, Lamech, Cainan, Mahaleel, Methuselah,

Lived nine hundred years apiece, and mayn't the king as well as they?" "Fervently", exclaimed the keeper, "fervently I trust he may".

But because Dandolo sailed to Constantinople at ninety, Madame Geoffrin drove to Warsaw at sixty-eight, and Lady Salisbury rode to hounds at seventy, it does not follow that Cibber walked to Twickenham at seventy-six. I did not, however, say it was impossible. Vivacity and vigour being in my mind distinct qualities, I still think it more likely that Cibber, if he went by land, borrowed a lord's coach, and if by the Thames (a longish ten miles?), took a pair of oars at Whitehall Stairs. Very truly yours,

CECIL S. KENT.

DR. ROSEDALE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

30 June, 1906.

SIR,—Why on earth do not either Dr. Rosedale or the Rev. P. Edouard d'Alençon or both write and put a satisfactory end to all the questionings which are being raised regarding Dr. Rosedale's recent literary performance? Is it possible that Dr. Rosedale does not take in the SATURDAY REVIEW? It is difficult to conceive of any other excusable (?) reason for his protracted silence. The reverend gentleman certainly owes an explanation to the mixed multitude of students of Franciscan history, and to refuse to give it does not increase confidence in his integrity as a writer.

I am, yours faithfully,

A TERTIARY.

TREES NOT IN "DOMESDAY BOOK".

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Esmond, Egham, Surrey, 2 July.

SIR,—Not often does my SATURDAY REVIEW trip, therefore I rubbed my eyes when I read in "His Neighbour's Landmark" "Scattered through the country are many oaks mentioned as marks in 'Domesday Book'". Not so, good sir, but scattered up and down Wardour Street, forming the doors of many a doubtful cupboard and the lid of many a dubious chest, for in all "Domesday" there is no mention of any particular tree, oak or other. "Domesday" does not concern itself about landmarks, but about holders, values, and measurements. I thought Mr. J. H. Round and others had effectually banished this cherished myth along with many more to the columns of the ever-gaping halfpenny press.

Yours faithfully,

FREDERIC TURNER.

"DAS REICHISMUS".

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

33 St. Luke's Road, Notting Hill, W.
1 July, 1906.

SIR,—You have frequently exemplified the old experience, that even worms will turn. It may interest you to learn that microbes will too. As the microbe that has caused the disease you call Reichismus, I do not object in the least to your writing on me as many articles as you wrote on the Boer war. I have no doubt they will be characterised by the same correctness of judgment and astonishing powers of prediction. But when you say "Das Reichismus", then I cannot resist exclaiming, my dear sir, why browbeat Latin and German à propos of me? Please oblige ordinary grammar, and say "Der Reichismus".

Yours truly,

EMIL REICH.

BUT ME NO BUTS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I see. "Used as" a preposition. Therefore it is a preposition. Glasgow logic. Similarly, a bit of bad grammar, "used as" good grammar, is good grammar.

A. G.

REVIEWS.

PAN AND THE SAINTS.

"Pan. Comédie Satirique en trois actes, en prose." Par Charles van Lerberghe. Paris: "Mercure de France." 1906.

"Plus Loin." Poèmes. Par Francis Vielé-Griffin. Paris: "Mercure de France." 1906.

IN reviewing "La Chanson d'Eve" of Charles van Lerberghe (1 October, 1904) we spoke of the poems as, in their way, "songs of innocence", and said that their world was an Eden of the mind. In the not less essential poetry of this little prose play of "Pan" ("comédie divine", it was once announced, but is now "comédie satirique") we are no longer in Eden, but in a more realisable world where Pan is not dead, yet where the Curé and the Abbé and the Capucin seem to rule, with the help of the Bourgmestre and the Secrétaire Communal, and under the impartial observation of the free-thinking Instituteur. The play is a myth, the new creation of an old legend, which has lived with so persistent a life that it comes to be born afresh in every age. It is all a symbol, yet we discern in it a double reality, each complete in itself, each completing yet not confusing the other. The surprising action is seen in its twofold existence with perfect clearness, and neither the modern and local facts nor the ancient and eternal meaning behind them demand more of our intelligence than that "willing suspension of disbelief for a moment which constitutes poetic faith", according to Coleridge's fundamental definition.

It is to be regretted that M. van Lerberghe has doubted his own clearness of exposition enough to put a few notes at the end of the book, which have nothing to tell any possible reader, and are the dropping of a veil between the mind and the play rather than an illumination of the play. "C'est à la fois comme type de dieu pastoral, et type plus récent de symbole mystique et de symbole de la philosophie moderne, que ce personnage est représenté ici." No doubt, but all that and much more is said in the play itself, and with a deeper and more precise truth.

This rare little play is like nothing else. It is not only in prose, but in the prose of peasants and officials, with astonishing naïvetés and formalities of speech; yet the whole impression is that of a poem; indeed, in its brevity and suggestiveness, of a sonnet. There is action, it moves, and even to very visible effect. Not a word is wasted, and the words are almost less important in themselves than even the words in the earlier plays of Maeterlinck, while much less self-conscious. The structure is at once the meaning and the ornament of the piece. Irony is hardly distinguishable in it from ecstasy, and in all this burlesque (which becomes delicately monstrous at moments) there is an ardent pantheism which is itself religious. Not a sentence will bear removing from its place, and it is useless to tell over again the story which is here told. To realise all its intellectual malice, human charity, frankness, reticence, lightness, significance, it must be read straight through, from the annunciation of the gipsies or angels at the door of the goatherd's cottage to the witty climax, when the stage suddenly accepts its proper limits, and the Abbé rings down the curtain "with a pudic rapidity".

It is with a certain solemnity that M. Remy de Gourmont has said: "il y a, par Francis Vielé-Griffin, quelque chose de nouveau dans la poésie française". How far that new element comes from the American origin of this poet who has written only in French is an interesting question; and there is something in the form of the first poem in his new book, the cycle of songs called "La Partenza", which seems to us more English than French. Perhaps it is the metre, so unusual in French and so frequent in English in just such a form as that of No. 12. But there is something also in the feeling (which, in the thirteenth, is almost pure Heine), a certain sort of pregnant simplicity, which one finds rarely in French verse. Here is one of these lovely little snatches, which are to be read, not as

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separate poems, the records of such moods as make up Verlaine's "Bonne Chanson", for instance, but almost as connected stanzas of a single poem, written with delicate precision of memory, "and calm of mind, all passion spent".

"C'est si peu que ces dix années
Au cours de ta vie en fleur :
Les siècles te sont donnés ;
Nous n'avons que des heures.

C'est peu ; et c'est toute la fleur,
Pourtant, de ma vie éphémère ;
La fleur est fanée et j'ai peur,
Car le fruit de la vie est amer.

Tes roses refléurissent aux portes
Quand Mai s'en revient et rit ;
La fleur de ma vie est morte ;
Et quel est le fruit de ma vie ?"

Is not that a perfect thing in its way? And in the next poem, an elegy "In Memoriam Stéphane Mallarmé", we have a quality of grave and complex beauty, concentrated from time to time into images as subtle and significant as this :

"Et vous avez tracé sur la mémoire,
Comme un qui trace sa devise dérisoire
Sur un miroir,
Des mots que nul ne lit sans trouble,—
Et cependant qu'il lit et songe,
Il a vu par delà les mots son double,
L'image de lui-même, son mensonge."

The whole poem, with its slow, pathetic cadences, full of trouble and wonder, is like "a solemn music": it is a requiem worthy of the master for whom it was written. But perhaps nothing in the volume is finer than the nine legends of the saints, grouped under the title "L'Amour Sacré", of which a limited edition, in italics on large paper, had previously been printed. Reading them over again, one seems to read them properly for the first time, or with a renewed and heightened sense of their beauty. They are for the most part "lyric romances", dramatic monologues, with one little lyric tragedy or divine comedy in dialogue which is perhaps the rarest and most delightful of them all. One of them is on Sainte Jeanne, who is Joan of Arc, and one on Sainte Agnès, and one, on Sainte Eulalie de Merida, is woven around a refrain from Prudentius :

"Carpite purpureas violas
Sanguineosque crocos metite."

They are written with the most sensitive skill in what in France would be called *vers libre*, but which is no more illegitimately free, according to any English canons, than the "catalectic" verse of "The Unknown Eros". There is, in the verse itself, everywhere strenuous grace, often subdued splendour; but there is more than this, there is an air of spiritual enchantment, a magic which is really the magic of poetry, or, in the image of the poet, the actual bread and roses of the miracle :

"Car l'Heure est ainsi faite, idéale et réelle,
Que l'âme avec le corps sien nourrit à sa faim
Et le pain se fait rose et la rose est du pain."

DEAD SEA FRUIT.

"Memoirs of My Dead Life." By George Moore. London: Heinemann. 1906. 6s.

THE humility of Mr. George Moore has seldom been surpassed. Realising that the world may after all have a false conception of him he has, following great examples, unbosomed himself by full and open confession. He is determined that there shall be no illusions about him. In his self-abasement he will not allow himself one shred of character. He omits no detail however apparently trivial that will throw any sort of illumination on his personality. He spares

neither himself nor his fellow-sinners. Realising that it is no time to stand on ceremony, and that when confession is in the wind taste must take care of itself, he gives with elaborate detail the stories of the women he has made love to or seduced, gloating over, as the sinner so often does, his past wicked triumphs and licking his lips lasciviously over the memory of pleasures he can no longer enjoy. See what sort of a man I am, he seems to say. I have absolutely no virtues. I am not only immoral but I am dishonourable. I am a man who kisses and tells. Here are the names of my victims so that there shall be no doubt. Nor must you think for an instant that I even possess courage. My various adventures have always been conducted in discretion and with absolute safety to my skin. In witness whereof he proceeds to tell of an episode with a married lady:—"I remember her eyes; one day in an orchard in the lush and luxuriance of June, her husband was walking in front with a friend, and I was pleading. 'Well,' she said, raising her eyes, 'you can kiss me now.' But her husband was in front, and he was a thick-set man, and there was a stream, and I foresaw a struggle—and an unpleasant one; confess, and be done with it!—I didn't care to kiss her, and I don't think she ever forgave me that lack of courage." Well! well! can anything be more abject?

But we cannot help suspecting that Mr. George Moore has exaggerated. We can hardly believe that anyone could cut on all occasions so poor and mean a figure as he shows us. There is good even in the worst of us, and surely Mr. Moore will allow himself some glimmering of a moral sense somewhere in his composition. Yes; we must think that he has done himself scant justice. Perhaps he is not so very wicked after all. We know he lacks a sense of humour. Perchance he takes his little lapses from virtue too seriously. Perchance the ladies about whom he writes were sometimes laughing at him secretly up their sleeves. Perchance—, but no; we would not dare to suggest that Mr. Moore has sometimes drawn upon his imagination, for he is at pains to assure us again and again that his book is a record of actual happenings. But, even discounting the author's confessions of wickedness, it must be conceded that Mr. Moore has added a new terror to friendship.

The epicurean attitude has always been that of Mr. Moore. He has desired to squeeze from the passing moment the utmost of enjoyment it has to yield. But his epicureanism is artificial and self-conscious. He has never been able to let himself go. He is never simple or spontaneous. He is for ever analysing his feelings and sensations and registering fugitive impressions. The sense of sex obsesses him. He revels in the thought and description of silk pyjamas, soft night-dresses and all the accessories of a woman's toilette. "It is", he writes, "only with scent and silk and artifices that we raise love from an instinct to a passion".

When Mr. Moore is content to leave sexual subjects alone, he writes gracefully and effectively on art and music. Although his judgments sometimes appear hasty and superficial, they are always fresh and suggestive. He is particularly sensitive to the moods of nature and introduces into his descriptions a wealth of poetic imagery. There are numerous fine passages in the book which haunt the memory and stir the imagination. How strange that one with so much taste should be guilty of aberration so tasteless!

OLD JAPAN.

"The History of Japan, 1690-92." By Engelbert Kaempfer. Translated by J. G. Scheuchzer. Glasgow: MacLehose. 1906. 3 vols. 37s. 6d. net.

FOR nearly two hundred and fifty years Japan's only intercourse with the outside world was conducted through the factory of the Dutch East India Company established on the little island of Desima in the harbour of Nagasaki. The history of Dutch relations with Japan is one in which romance and sordidness are strangely blended. The Portuguese were the European

pioneers in Japan. Having discovered the islands by the accident of one of their ships being driven out of her course when on a voyage from Siam to China, they made such good use of their discovery that throughout the latter half of the sixteenth century they held the monopoly of a highly lucrative trade. But the Dutch, their great rivals in the Far East in those days, soon followed on their tracks, and taking advantage of the indiscretion of Jesuit missionaries, succeeded in persuading the Japanese that the object of the Portuguese was, under the guise of Christian propaganda, to bring the country under foreign domination. Christianity and foreign intercourse were then for the first time placed under the ban of the Government. Immense numbers of converts, including many of the very highest ranks of society, had been made by the missionaries. Both missionaries and converts were subjected to a persecution as ruthless as any in the history of the world. All Portuguese and Spaniards were expelled or executed. The remnants of the native Christians, who had taken refuge in the fortified town of Shimabara, made a stout resistance to the Imperial troops, but when the Dutch, with modern artillery, came to the assistance of the Imperialists and battered down the walls, the fortress fell after a siege which had lasted for three months and the defenders to the number of over 37,000 were pitilessly slaughtered. This occurred in 1638 and Japan became hermetically closed to the outside world, a single exception being made in favour of the Dutch, who, as a reward for their services in the extirpation of the native Christians, were permitted to retain and trade in their factory at Desima. But the Japanese made their own estimate of the conduct of the Dutch. While they had been willing to profit by their assistance, they hated and despised the traitors to their own religion who had given it. The trade carried on by the Dutch enriched, beyond the dreams of avarice, both the East India Company and the officials of the factory. Profits were, however, never more dearly earned. The members of the factory were kept as close prisoners on their little island from year's end to year's end, their monotonous existence being varied only by a yearly visit to the capital, during which they were still treated as close prisoners. They were subjected to every degrading personal humiliation that ingenuity could devise. The head of the factory, though in his own country of ambassadorial rank, though professing to be accredited as an ambassador to Japan, was forced to crawl on hands and knees, with forehead touching the ground, into the presence of the Sovereign and both he and his staff were ordered and consented to play the parts of vulgar buffoons for the amusement of the court officials. To all this ignominy the Dutch abjectly submitted.

Engelburtus Kaempfer was the medical officer of the factory during the years 1690-92. He was born at Lemgow in Westphalia in 1651. After having served in the diplomatic service of Sweden in Russia and Persia, he joined the Dutch East India Company and proceeded to Japan via Batavia and Siam, arriving at Nagasaki on 24 September 1690. Though he only remained in the country for an aggregate period of twenty-six months, though the circumstances of his residence were such as might well have disheartened one full of optimism, and every possible difficulty of language, jealousy and tyranny was thrown in his way, his laborious and persevering industry enabled him to gather the materials for a work which, it is no exaggeration to say, is monumental as an historical and scientific account of what was then an utterly unknown country. The work, though originally written in German, and subsequently published in Latin, French, Dutch, and German, was curiously enough first given to the world in an English translation in the year 1727. This translation has been long out of print, and obtainable only on rare occasions at a high price. The publication of this new edition is therefore a real public service. We have only one fault to find. Kaempfer's spelling of native terms is so archaic as, in many instances, to be absolutely unintelligible to modern readers and difficult to follow even by persons more than ordinarily acquainted with the history, geography and language of Japan. The re-

searches of modern scholars, such as Satow, Aston and Chamberlain, have thrown strong light on subjects, in dealing with which Kaempfer was groping in cimmerian darkness, and though he treated them with the profundity of a philosopher and the painstaking accuracy of a scientific investigator, he was not infrequently wrong both in his deductions and in his acceptance of so-called historical facts. His personal observations, carried on from behind what were practically the bars of a prison, were necessarily often vague and inaccurate. Any modern reprint of his work, even when it is, as in the present instance, one of a series of reprints of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, should therefore have been copiously annotated which could have been done without altering in any way the text of the original, and as there are now in England, apart from the army of mere book-makers, at least three well-known authorities, whose scholarship and knowledge of Japan are beyond question, it is unfortunate that the services of none of them were obtained in editing what under such supervision would have become for the present-day reader a perfect work.

Kaempfer covers an extraordinarily wide field. The long journey to Japan, the geography, climate, origin and history of the people, their religions, their mode of government, their chronological system, their laws, manners and customs, their natural and industrial productions, their systems of trade, are all described. The portion of the work which deals with the history and religions will now appeal only to the esoteric reader, whose difficulties will not be lessened by such spelling as, to take a very few of the easiest examples, Syn Mu ten Oo for Jimmu Tenno, Dsin Guukwoo Gu for the Empress Jingo, Jejassama for Iyeyasu, and Tsinajosiko or Tsijnasosama for Tsunayoshi. But nearly the whole of the second and third volumes, in which are described in minute detail the author's life at Nagasaki; the journeys to and from and life at the capital; wayside scenes and travellers along the great high-roads; the Court of the Shogun, who is called the Secular Monarch, as distinct from "the Ecclesiastical Hereditary Emperor", the Mikado and the popular festivals, are so full of interest that he would be indeed a dull reader who was not entranced by their continued intrinsic charms. The author was full of admiration of the self-contained happiness of the people in their lovely country, which supplied all their necessities and luxuries in abundance; of their security from foreign invasion and war, Nature having surrounded their empire with a dangerous and exceedingly tempestuous sea, and of the good government which secured them from revolts at home. He was convinced that Japan was never in a happier condition than "it now is, governed by an arbitrary monarch, shut up and kept from all commerce and communication with foreign nations".

His estimate of the character of the people in general has been verified by much of their subsequent history. Here are a few of his criticisms taken at random:—

"The Japanese are not wanting in boldness or heroism."

"It will appear in ages to come that they are not wanting in prudence, resolution and conduct in war, nor good order in their military expeditions, nor a due and cheerful obedience to their commanding officers."

"They are very industrious and enured to hardships. They can pass whole nights without sleeping. But otherwise they are great lovers of civility and good manners, very nice in keeping themselves, their cloaths and houses clean and neat."

"Nature did not in vain so liberally bestow upon this nation bodies fit for hard labour and minds capable of ingenious inventions."

"They rather exceed all other nations in ingenuity and neatness of workmanship."

"In the practice of virtue, in purity of life and outward devotion they far outdo the Christians."

The fascination both of people and country, which has often cast its spell on modern visitors, must indeed have been great to exercise so strong an influence on a man, the conditions of whose own residence were like to fill him with hatred of both.

THE CURSE OF THE COMMENTATOR.

"A Chapter in the History of Annotation, being Scholia Aristophanica, vol. III." By William G. Rutherford. London: Macmillan. 25s. net.

THE third volume of Dr. Rutherford's Scholia Aristophanica is not only a valuable contribution to the study of Greek literature but also an aid to literary criticism outside the limits of the Greek language. The author emphasises the truth that the important thing is not the written but the spoken word, and that the whole machinery of the litera scripta only exists (so far as artistic compositions are concerned), in order that the score may be preserved for articulation by the human voice. That this was the ancient conception of the rôle of literature is incontestable. Until recently it has been the underlying assumption of a great portion of modern education. But the last fifty years have seen a great diminution in serious viva-voce work of all descriptions, and declamation is almost a lost art. Consequently Dr. Rutherford's reminder will have a tendency to startle even those who agree most thoroughly with his view. The reminder is sorely needed. In London to-day among the so-called educated classes it is doubtful whether there could be found one lad out of ten who at the age of twenty could read out intelligently and intelligibly any passage from Tennyson or even from Mr. Kipling. The most extraordinary pronunciations of poetical words are current not on the lips but in the minds of the reading public. Reading aloud is in fact hardly considered a respectable occupation for a serious man. Against this particular head of the Hydra of modern education, in theory and practice, Dr. Rutherford rides full tilt, brandishing in the face of barbarism the Hellenic spear. This part of the book no one interested in literary education can afford to leave unread.

It may seem at first sight strange to find the editor of the Aristophanic Scholia standing up for the spoken word; but long experience has shown him the futility of an overgrowth of annotation, and he is beyond question correct in ascribing at least in part the decay of the humanities in this country to the repulsive reams of commentary beneath which the classics are smothered. In the light of his leading conception the author divides his work into six portions, scholia concerned with the transmission of the letters, scholia concerned with the interpretation of the letters, the explaining of unfamiliar words and of matters of fact, the discovery of etymology and calculating of analogy (which two subjects are briefly dismissed), and the *κρίσις ποιημάτων*. A great portion of the book is of so highly technical a nature that very few critics will venture to try conclusions with Dr. Rutherford on his own ground. Sixty-one pages, for example, are given up to a discussion of the fourteen ordinary Tropes, followed by twenty other pages on certain secondary Tropes. The tendency to label the vital words of Aristophanes, his constructions, and his turns of thought went very far in the scholia. How far it went and with what results, Dr. Rutherford points out in interesting detail. The labelling process was at first a mechanical aid intended to assist the viva-voce reader: but the means was mistaken for an end, and grammar for the sake of grammar sprang into being. We see the same process going on in modern England. Analysis (a waste of time borrowed by the English from the Germans after the Germans had discovered its futility) might conceivably in some cases be of service as revealing the true meaning of a writer: but analysis, as understood in the schools, is an essentially scholastic occupation and smacks of the darkest days of literary decadence. One of the features which makes this book so fascinating is that even in the most abstruse discussions of ostensibly long dead problems the reader finds that the issues are still living, nay that they are often still of the last importance. Indeed it would not be difficult to point out portions of the book which probably provided subject-matter for the great meditation in Battersea Park. Perhaps the most interesting section of the volume is that entitled *κρίσις ποιημάτων*. The words may have several meanings. Aristarchus was a discriminator between the genuine and the forged;

but Crates on the other hand was a discriminator of the meaning of an author: and there was yet a third kind of *κρίσις*, discrimination between good works and bad, and there were all sorts of consequential and subordinate criticism. It is wonderful how unhelpful the scholia are, if we treat them as criticism of any kind: and yet they are continually meant as criticism. Dr. Rutherford tells us that on the *Plutus*, line 515, there is a scholium to the effect that a certain word is redolent of middle comedy, but he also tells us that "it would indeed be difficult to find at least in the *ravennas* a second note resembling this". We come fresh from a survey (not a viva-voce reading; for they are not art) of large portions of the scholia on Pindar. These, like their Aristophanic relatives, make an interesting study in themselves, but they throw remarkably little light on any problem connected with the Pindaric text. Of course it may occasionally happen that the remarks of a scholiast may in one form or another preserve the true reading in cases where our existing text is corrupt. There are such instances to be found both in Aristophanes and in Pindar. But it is manifest that the overwhelming majority of the corruptions, that present themselves to-day, presented themselves also in the days of the scholiasts. The papyri of Timotheus and Bacchylides are sadly corrupt. The former papyrus, if it has been correctly read by editors, actually presents *νομάσει αἰγὰς*, when what is wanted in the context is *νομάσει ναύταις*, "roving mariners". Again, no scholiast on the *Antigone* knows of any other reading than *πρὸς οὐς ἀπαῖος, ἀγαμος*, *ἀδ' ἐγὼ μέτροικος ἔρχομαι*, where it seems clear both on metrical and on other grounds that *ἀπαῖος ἀγαμος* is a gross, though a very early, blunder for *ἀπαῖος ἀρπός*, "an unsubstantial wraith".

Let it be said in conclusion (and it would be enough by itself) that among scholars who are not sciolists Dr. Rutherford is acclaimed as the foremost Grecian of his day, and that this volume will add to his reputation.

FISCAL ADVICE FROM A FOREIGNER.

"British Imperialism and Commercial Supremacy." By Victor Bérard. London: Longmans. 1906. 7s. 6d. net.

THIS volume is an English version of a French journalist's opinions upon the Fiscal Question in England. Written some time ago, originally for French readers, it may seem to have been left far behind in the rapid march of events, and yet it is interesting reading as it presents one view of the commercial position of the United Kingdom which, despite its undoubted shallowness and extravagance, is certainly held by many on the Continent. M. Bérard is flattering neither to the British people nor to their public men, and he pursues Mr. Chamberlain with an especially vehement hatred which colours all his opinions and leads one to question the unbiassed nature of his conclusions. It is true that in the preface to the English edition he states that he is "only opposing 'le radicalisme brummagem' which builds up Empire and crushes nations", but it is quite evident that the only English party whom he favours is the one which is suspicious of anything that favours England.

If we understand M. Bérard rightly, his main thesis is somewhat as follows. Thanks to the misfortunes of other countries in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and to the presence in her own country of able inventors and clever mechanics England established what was practically a monopoly in all departments of commerce and industry where steam could play an important part. Her captains of industry and her artisans worked early and late to increase their national prosperity, but presently they gave place to a less worthy offspring, who were not content with the laborious riches of their ancestors but desired to live in luxury without personal exertion and preferred to win or lose a fortune in a few months in the stock and share market rather than to seek for fresh customers or secure their superiority over foreign competitors by improved methods and workmanship. And even as the foolish inhabitants of Birmingham and Sheffield were rendering themselves less and less fit for the

battle there dawned a new era, the age of electricity, in which even the industrious empiricism of their fathers would have been useless when matched against the solid scientific attacks of Germany. According to M. Bérard, the English merchants at last acknowledged the importance of an attack they had at first despised, but they misjudged both the cause of its success and the remedy to be applied. He scoffs at the proposed Imperial Zollverein and the idea he fancies to lie behind it. Force he says is no remedy; science is the remedy. But he hints not obscurely that even science cannot help the United Kingdom to regain its lost pre-eminence, especially as the Zollverein is aimed at the wrong party. The United States not Germany are the enemy. The former would never consent to sink their identity in a Zollverein, and even if they did its centre would be New York, not London. Without the United States a Britannic Zollverein could not be, and therefore, M. Bérard hints rather than says that England has already allowed her chance to pass by and her sun is setting for ever.

Truly it is a lugubrious picture that is presented to us and it is backed by an apparent wealth of illustration and assertion—we cannot call it argument—that goes far to win it credence. And yet if the truth is to be told M. Bérard is at the best an able journalist juggling cleverly with second-hand knowledge and snippets from Blue-books and consular reports. He displays a familiarity with Mr. Chamberlain's speeches and career that might have been acquired by a conscientious study of the literature issued by the Free Trade Union or the Liberal Publication Department, while his views upon English politics and commercial life seem to be reflections or reminiscences of conversations with members of the Cobden Club. Seriously, M. Bérard's English friends ought to have revised this undoubtedly interesting volume before it was allowed to appear before the English public. His opinions as to the decadence of our nation are presumably based upon the facts he presents to his readers, but his translator, being an Englishman, felt bound to insert a letter from a Liverpool critic which convicts M. Bérard of imposing upon the public at least as to his knowledge of Liverpool's history and commerce.

One of the features of the book is the apparent omniscience of the writer upon all facts connected with the past and present of English commerce and history. It were useless to discuss how real M. Bérard's knowledge is about other cities or countries when his own translator does not defend his views of Liverpool. Leaving out of the question excusable blunders such as those dealing with the topography of Liverpool and the past history of the town and estuary, which are merely indications of the second-hand character of M. Bérard's knowledge, we must object to an argument based upon statistics which the writer evidently did not trouble to verify as they seemed to agree so well with his own opinions. He quotes statistics with the object of showing the steady decline of Liverpool as a port, presumably as in some way a result of the rise of Hamburg which he glorifies, but he omitted to state, probably not knowing it, that Liverpool figures only refer to tonnage entering the port, while in most other places the figures refer to the tonnage entering and leaving. Not content with deposing Liverpool in favour of Hamburg, M. Bérard states that Liverpool to-day is far behind London. We presume that to-day meant when this book was being written. If so we cannot see why M. Bérard relies for proof upon figures for 1897, except it be that he desires to be strictly logical and consistent in using so far as possible only out of date statistics. Unfortunately for his argument later calculations made by experts lead one to a different conclusion.

M. Bérard by no means confines his attention to Liverpool but only free-trade Manchester wins any praise from him. Manchester will have nothing to do with the Zollverein or a real Imperial State, and in that, says M. Bérard, she is wise. A more suspicious race than the English would wonder why a non-national policy is the only one praised by the foreign critic. They would ask what future M. Bérard promises to them if they abandon what he calls their useless dreams

of national consolidation. It is strange advice to an English audience to give, in however ambiguous language, the counsel that they should resign themselves to their fate and be glad if they can remain even the third industrial State of the world, hopelessly out-paced in the race by the United States and easily beaten by Germany. M. Bérard's book is not palatable reading to an Englishman, and yet when we discount all the errors, exaggerations and prejudices of the foreign critic, the existence of which at least in part he would be the last to deny, there remains too substantial a modicum of truth in his story of our present-day national life for us to rest content with mere denunciation. There may be men who, dimly understanding what imperialism really means, have talked wildly or built up in their minds structures that can never materialise; there may be some who hope again to call into being the old colonial system. But such an idea is not that of the new imperialism which is based upon the race not upon the land, and upon the race not from any blind pride of birth but because the enlightened selfishness of the world demands that before a universal free-trade union can be realised each would-be member shall develop to the full its own national inheritance and populate the waste places in its land. We do not grudge the foreigner his prosperity if it is won by exertions in his own land; we only seek that we should be allowed to develop our own inheritance unfettered by crude economic theories prematurely applied.

Theorists talk glibly of the impossibility of any compromise between free-trade England and her protectionist colonies. They say with truth that the colonists will never consent to be hewers of wood and drawers of water, to sacrifice their manufactures for a preference on food-stuffs however favourable, and think that truisms are irresistible arguments. Prince Bismarck's respect for treaties depended upon a definite condition—*rebus sic stantibus*—but thinkers of M. Bérard's school seem to deny the possibility of any change for England. In view of the wonderful increase of Canada's population by immigration, especially from England, cannot we look across time to the day when the North-West Provinces will be one vast field of wheat for which purchasers must be found? And as Canadian wheat production increases the United States will be less and less able to feed even their own people, for export will be out of the question in a few more years. The price of the world's wheat is fixed by the rate of wages prevailing in the market of the largest demand area and in a short time the Yankee artisan will determine the price of the English loaf. That price will certainly be higher than at present unless the development of every possible wheatfield in the empire is encouraged, so that transport facilities look towards England before the American demand comes. Every increase of the colonial wheatfield calls into existence a host of lucrative customers to our manufacturers, and schemes for real reciprocity would not be hopeless under a different balance of electoral power in the various colonies. The future of imperialism does not depend upon adherence to any cut-and-dried tariff scheme or to any theory of pure economics. Its existence is linked with that of our race and is the product of geographical conditions. Science and skill are useless if the inheritance of a nation will not repay development, but we believe that the undoubted blunders of the past may be repaired by the new generation which is not too proud to learn how to replace the empiricism of the past by scientific study. Perhaps M. Bérard forgets that he is writing about a race that is said to have a difficulty in knowing when it is defeated.

CLAVIS ERRANS?

"The Key to the World's Progress." By Charles Stanton Devas. London: Longmans. 1906. 5s. net.

MR. DEVAS, who has been a University examiner in political economy, believes the key to the world's progress to be the Church of Rome. This is a big thesis for a not very big book. The author would have been wiser to attack some single point thoroughly instead of scampering over the whole ground. Except

here and there where he is helped by his own economic studies, Mr. Devas' book is little more than a cento of declamatory passages from Newman, Faber, Ward and Tyrrell. Rhetorical paradox from the pen of Newman, "the great master of the nineteenth century", loses its impressiveness when hashed up by a disciple. Disregard for the facts of history which was magnificent in the one, becomes slightly irritating in the other.

Take, for instance, under the antinomy of "Scandals and Sanctity", the moral condition of South America. Against the common impression that it is anything but a credit to the Church which has had things all its own way there, Mr. Devas quite legitimately cites an unbiassed testimony to the excellence of Mexican family life, the reverence for parents, the absence of the precocious insolence and vice found in Protestant North America. But to argue that, man's nature being fallen and corrupt, a scandalously low state of morals in a Christian community is a testimony to the high standard of duty exacted by the Church will convince no one. The truth seems to be that the Roman system is favourable to lofty and beautiful forms of saintliness here and there, but fails to secure a high average standard of goodness, and sometimes falls woefully below it.

The reader may turn with some curiosity to the chapter on liberty of conscience. The antinomy here is assuredly not surmounted by defining freedom, with various authorities, as license to do what is right. We wish Mr. Devas good luck in his controversy with Liberalism; but the Liberal who accepts that definition has surrendered at the outset. "What's for their good, not what pleases them", said Olivarius Protector. But the real Liberalism affirms that virtue and knowledge can only be won by each man for himself; that moral responsibility excludes compulsion; that I am I, and who gave you the right to interfere with me? In fact, as Lord Yorkshire says to Helen Challoner, "to influence anybody always seems a slight infringement of rights. Every human being is a unique specimen. Bad or good, it is our own clay and our own material out of which our will has to fashion a figure of some kind". Directly this individualistic philosophy is denied, the right to "persecute"—be it by a frown, a leading article or a thumbscrew—is affirmed. After all, most of our morality has been acquired under compulsion, from, as Mr. Morley says, "those restraints of opinion and the constable which have so much more to do with our self-control than we love to admit". Conscience left to itself is quite as often an accomplice as a guide.

The charge against his Church that it is hostile to the rights of the State Mr. Devas meets by showing that the Church is the upholder of order and inculcates loyalty and obedience. But, waiving all controversy about bulls of deposition and subjects being authorised from Rome to assassinate their rulers, is Mr. Devas quite unacquainted with the political philosophy of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and with the continuous effort made by Puritan and Papalist writers alike, and afterwards by Whig and Ultramontane writers alike, to evacuate temporal government of all supernatural character, and to place society upon the godless basis of a contract social? Truly his book is, as he says, "a mere popular outline".

We are at one with Mr. Devas when he says: "Just as theism has grave difficulties which in fact can only be met by Christianity as complete theism, so Christianity itself has grave difficulties which can only be met by the Church as complete Christianity." But his assertion that the history of the Papacy has in fact unlocked all difficulties leaves matters pretty much as they were.

NOVELS.

"The Lost Earl of Ellan." By Mrs. Campbell Praed. London: Chatto and Windus. 1906. 6s.

There is not much mystery about this lost earl: when in chapter one a tramp of gentlemanly appearance walks dead-beat into a Queensland station and meets the squatter's beautiful daughter, the hardened novel-reader draws his conclusions. But we are inclined to think this the best of Mrs. Campbell Praed's Australian

stories: the interest of the plot is real, and the sketches of colonial life are vivid. A sensational shipwreck ushers in a love episode of the kind that used to be described as "intense". The hero, like Mr. Rider Haggard's "Sir Thomas Lawrence", has the misfortune to fall in love successively with two sisters, and, naturally, to meet the wrong one first. But the difficulty is not treated on the same lines. The author can make a very passable portrait of a disreputable miner, and, if the jeune premier is a conventional figure, she shows remarkable power of analysis in unfolding the characters of the two sisters and their good-natured stepmother.

"What became of Pam." By Baroness von Hutten. London: Heinemann. 1906. 6s.

Sequels are apt to be disappointing, but the Baroness von Hutten's continuation of the story of that vivacious young lady Pamela Yeoland is an exception. "Pam" was good. "What became of Pam" is better. It exhibits a firmer touch, a more intimate knowledge of human character. The author writes with grace and charm. She possesses that indefinable attribute generally known as "temperament". Her characters are not mere dummies tricked out to do the author's bidding. They are real creatures of flesh and blood who live and move and have their being. Although the whole story centres round Pam—now no longer very young nor rich—the minor characters are equally well drawn. When so much that is unworthy obtains tremendous popularity it is comforting to note that work of real merit in fiction also commands appreciation.

"Two London Fairies." By George R. Sims. London: Greening. 1906. 3s. 6d.

In this slender story Mr. Sims indulges in his favourite occupation of tilting against the wickedness of money-lenders, the brutality of our convict prisons and other abuses. Two fairies come to London with the beneficent object of doing all the good they can during their sojourn on earth. They are marvellously successful. They bring brightness and happiness wherever they go, and set right many grievous wrongs. The little allegory is written with humour and sympathy, and is ingeniously worked up.

"The Newell Fortune." By Mansfield Brooks. London: John Lane. 1906. 6s.

The Newell fortune was derived from the slave trade a hundred years ago. When John Newell, a New Englander, came into his share of it on his father's death he decided that he could not take money from such a tainted source. He therefore devoted his money to organising relief for escaped negro slaves. The author is somewhat prosy and given to sermonising. The love theme which runs through the tale is of the conventional kind.

"Parson Brand." By L. Cope Cornford. London: Grant Richards. 1906. 6s.

This is a collection of short stories of varied merit. They are of the adventurous kind, exciting and for the most part interesting. The author writes fluently and graphically, but without distinction. The first story which gives its name to the volume is the best.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"From a College Window." By A. C. Benson. London: Smith, Elder. 1906. 7s. 6d. net.

Mr. A. C. Benson here looks out in a contemplative mood on various ordinary everyday matters, conversation, art, games, habits and so forth, and usually has something suggestive and fresh to say about them. Most of these agreeable papers were originally published in the "Cornhill Magazine", but Mr. Benson has added some new essays of the same flavour. The whole comprises the author's own point of view: he writes down himself and as a consequence the book is full of "I", but the note is modest and sincere. Some people think that to write in the first person singular instead of impersonally is to be egotistical; but many of the least egotistical books have been written in this way; the pronoun itself really counts for very little. Mr. Benson starts with a paper on "The Point of View" and urges that the one thing that gives value to any piece of art, whether literature, music, or painting, is personality. Few will join issue with him here; as he says, no-

amount of labour or accomplishment can make up for the absence of this quality. He is on equally sure ground when he declares that sincerity in all works of art is absolutely indispensable. You can make a temporary stir and success without this quality, but nothing really good or lasting has been achieved without it. "It is useless to take opinions on trust, to retail them, to adopt them." It is worse than useless—it is base and contemptible. To take for granted a view on literature or any branch of art and life because it is the view of a clever even a great man is too miserable. The chief fault one finds in these agreeable papers is here and there a touch of sentimentalism.

"More Famous Houses of Bath and District." By J. F. Meehan. Bath: Meehan. 1906. 12s. 6d. net.

Illustrated place-books have had a considerable vogue of late years. Bath is clearly rich in buyers of books of this kind. Mr. Meehan's first volume on the subject was so successful that he has ventured on a second already, and it seems that most of the copies of this have been already subscribed for. In "More Famous Houses of Bath and District" the author deals with the associations of General Wolfe of Quebec fame, Southey, Nelson and Wesley among many others. People who would not sit down in earnest to read Southey's poetry or prose—who indeed does?—will perhaps be interested in this account of him at Corston and Bath; it is readable, and has the merit of brevity that the poet certainly had not. Pickwick naturally turns up in the Assembly Rooms once more, and there are notes on the Pump Room and its literary associations. Mr. Egerton Castle supplies an introduction to the book.

"The Royal Society." By Sir William Huggins. London: Methuen. 1906. 4s. 6d. net.

This volume consists mainly of the Royal Society Presidential addresses delivered by Sir William Huggins between 1902-1905. They deal especially with science as applied to the national industries and science in education, and in his preface the author insists on the vital importance of this subject. "If we are to fulfil our mission as a great nation," we must, he says, bring science into our system of education. But what is the "mission" of a great nation? It always strikes one as a somewhat high-sounding phrase, emotional and well-meaning rather than scientific. However the addresses were indeed well worth reprinting, and should have many readers; they are valuable and interesting. Besides this matter the book contains an account of the "Early History of the Royal Society" which is less remarkable and a number of good illustrations in half tone.

"The Law of Corporate Executors and Trustees." By Ernest King Allen. London: Stevens and Sons. 1906. 6s.

This book is a sign of a change which is passing over the custom and the law of trustees and executors. The private trustee and executor may not become extinct, but his accustomed place is likely to be largely taken either by the public trustee or the corporate executor and trustee. Mr. Allen's book is the first dealing with the functions of the company in the fiduciary capacity; and its object is to set out the modifications introduced into the law of trusteeship and executorship by the fact of the corporate personality. This is ably done; and the lucidity and conciseness of exposition, and the inferences from the analogies of the general law, should make the book extremely useful and suggestive to secretaries of the corporations or to solicitors who may have to advise them. Should the corporate trustee and executor become popular with testators this special branch of law will develop; and Mr. Allen has laid the foundation of a text-book whose subsequent editions ought to be gratifying to himself and his publishers.

"Revue des Deux Mondes." 1 Juillet. 3 fr.

This is a particularly interesting number and we find it quite impossible to notice all the articles which deserve it, but we would call attention to M. Pinon's on the Anglo-Turkish conflict which is worth reading rather for the clearness with which he puts before us the causes of the dispute so far as Turkey and Egypt are concerned than for the somewhat fantastic moral he desires to draw from it. He shares the delusions of our own Teutophobes who forget that for Germany to egg on the Sultan to a struggle in which she intended to leave him in the lurch would be the acme of folly and a course best calculated to ruin her own influence. As for a Pan-Islamic uprising, German aims in Asia Minor might suffer from it quite as much as the designs of other European Powers in other parts of the Turkish Empire. There is a penetrating, judicious and sympathetic study of Thomas Hardy by M. Firmin Roz from which even his English admirers may learn something. The writer classes Mr. Hardy with Flaubert, Daudet and Maupassant. M. Roz does not seem to have considered "The Dynasts" and we should be interested to know his views on Mr. Hardy's new departure.

THE JULY REVIEWS.

We might best put the points raised in the July Reviews in a series of interrogatories: Will the Russian bureaucracy survive the crisis brought about by the demands of the Douma? Will the Labour Question in South Africa be settled before the country has been brought to chaos and bankruptcy? Will the Lords dare to throw out the Education Bill? Will the Unionist party see the necessity of such a reform in its organisation and leadership as will turn the last general election to good account? And so on. Russia is the subject of the usual more or less melodramatic outburst in the "Contemporary" by Dr. Dillon, who translates a communication in the "Novoe Vremya" which describes Russia as "a gigantic madhouse". In the "Independent Review" Mr. Paul Vinogradoff writes with more moderation of the Douma's first month. He says the Ministry act as a kind of red flag inciting the Assembly to fury, and have brought about a situation which cannot endure indefinitely. "In any other country but Russia, one of two things would have happened: either the Ministry would have retired, or else the Douma would have been dissolved. Neither of these eventualities has taken place in Russia. It is evidently thought possible and useful to have two violently opposed governmental centres in the country: a Ministry without a shadow of moral authority, and a Parliament bereft of the means to exert practical authority. And this at the very time when the whole country is seething with unrest and excitement". The uncertainty of the position in Russia leads Mr. Edward Dicey in the "Empire Review" to protest against any idea of an Anglo-Russian Agreement. "The nearest approach that can be made to a forecast is that before the arrival of our fleet the Tsar will be deposed or the Douma will be dissolved, and that the country will be in the throes of a sanguinary insurrection against all constituted authorities. Surely this is not the moment for a British Government to dream of concluding a friendly Agreement with an Empire on the verge of dissolution, or still less of sending a fleet to congratulate Nicholas II." The urgency of immediate and sweeping social reform is pointed out in an article in the "Monthly" by Lieut. C. A. Cameron.

Black and white in South Africa are dealt with in two papers in the "Monthly", one signed "S. A." the other by the Bishop of Barberton. "S. A." contends that Nature as well as the spread of civilisation has placed limits upon the supply of native labour for the mines; and that if the Transvaal is ever to be a white man's country there must be no attempt to apply the principles of democracy as understood in England to the two races. "S. A." says it is necessary to live in South Africa in order to understand the problem of native labour, but the Bishop of Barberton hardly encourages us to believe that even those on the spot know very much of the black. Only "a small percentage, probably a small decimal percentage, of the white population ever gets more than an inkling of what is passing in the secretive mind of the native". Consequently he utters a warning as to the insecurity of the settlers, which recent events assuredly in no way discounts. In the "Contemporary" Sir Alfred Pease, the late Administrator of Native Affairs in the Transvaal, draws up a long list of suggestions calculated in his view to advance native interests, including the creation of a Native Labour Bureau and representation in a Central Native Indaba distinct from any European legislature. "A Member of Winchester College" in the "National" is concerned more particularly with the coolie side of the labour problem. He shows how every effort of the mineowners to secure native labour ended in failure. Labour is the one condition of progress, and "since stagnation means ruin, and white unskilled labour is impracticable, it is scarcely surprising that the mineowners and the Government (for the crisis was not only financial but national) were driven to the only remaining alternative of importing labour". It is well to remember that the experiment of white unskilled labour was tried more than once before resort was had to coolie importation.

If we are to take the political critics of the reviews as the final judges, both the House of Lords and the Unionist party need drastic overhauling. The most weighty pronouncement

(Continued on page 24.)

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is Sir Herbert Maxwell's in the "Nineteenth Century". Regarding the continuance of a purely hereditary chamber in a thoroughly democratic constitution such as ours as "a salient anomaly" he drafts a scheme the adoption of which would secure la crème de la crème of the nation in fact and practice rather than as now only in theory and flattering fiction. He would fix the number of peers in permanent proportion to that of the House of Commons, would make general the elective principle which at present applies to the Scotch and Irish peers, and would stay the creation of hereditary titles, restricting the prerogative of the Crown to the granting of life peerages. Really these paper statesmen are very amusing! Mr. Herbert Paul, who knows so much, modestly confesses in the same review that he does not know what the Government will do if the Education Bill is thrown out by the Lords, but he does know apparently what he would do himself. "There is an obvious course which, improbable as the need for it may be, appears at least worth pointing out. Ministers might advise the King to prorogue Parliament, and to summon it again without the interval of a single day. The Bill could then be reintroduced at once, passed through the Commons by a very stringent closure in a very short time, and the Lords would have a place for repentance. In 1894 there was only a week's gap between one Session and another. There need not be any gap at all. This, however, is idle speculation. The Lords are men of the world, and their temperate implacability will be nursed for a more convenient occasion." Mr. Paul has made the discovery that working men regard the Lords with unaffected contempt. "They must know, unless, as Mr. Gladstone once said, they live in a balloon, that nothing would tend more to cement and increase the popularity of the Government than a quarrel with the House of Lords." Now that Mr. Paul is M.P. for Northampton we suppose he must be violent; but he knows well that it was not the House of Lords but Mr. Gladstone who found himself in the balloon when the Lords dared to refer a great Liberal measure back to the people. As for the Unionist party no one disputes the necessity for changes in its organisation, but attacks on the "old gang" in the "National", or demands such as Mr. W. G. H. Gritten's in the "Fortnightly" that Mr. Balfour should give up the leadership, will not advance matters much. There is a timely article in view of the Chamberlain birthday celebrations by Mr. G. Benyon Harris in the "Fortnightly" on Mr. Chamberlain as the articulate interpreter of Birmingham's business-like ideas as to national as well as municipal life.

Some of the miscellaneous articles in the reviews this month are of exceptional interest. The "Fortnightly" prints two papers on the woman question—one The Awakening of Women in Germany, by Mr. Havelock Ellis, the other The Present Disabilities of the Women of England, by Lady Grove—and a capital account of King Charles I. of Roumania by Mr. Alfred Stead. German by birth, King Charles has proved himself the best Rumanian of them all. The "National Review" gives prominence to an article by "a friendly foreigner"—Colonel Camille Favre—on British Imperial Defence. Now is the time he says to put the British Empire on such a footing that in case of need Great Britain might dispense with the continuance of the treaty with Japan. In the "Monthly Review", Mr. Edward Marston writes amusingly on how it feels to be old, and Mr. Arthur J. Bliss makes the revival of interest in horticulture and gardening an excuse for some very suggestive remarks on hybridisation and plant-breeding. Mr. J. Ellis Barker in the "Nineteenth Century" writes at some length on the possibility of a German absorption of Holland which in his view "would permanently threaten the safety of England". Whilst Mr. Barker foresees dangers in this direction, Sir Alexander Tulloch finds that German competition is gradually capturing British markets in South America. In "Blackwood's" the article of the month is Mr. Charles Whibley's on George Buchanan—the type and exemplar of the wandering Scot—whose head is the chief feature of Maga's cover. In the "Independent Review" Canon Barnett indicates the possible mischief which press funds in aid of the unemployed may do, and Mr. G. Lowes-Dickinson expresses his astonishment that the playgoer should prefer Ibsen and Mr. Bernard Shaw to Shakespeare.

For this Week's Books see page 26.

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The Secretary (Mr. R. Gordon) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in presenting the accounts, said it was with some degree of pride that he was able to point to the fact that, in spite of the many adverse influences which affected all business ventures during the past year, the balance-sheet showed the steadily-increasing prosperity of the business. The profits on the net trading were £1,278 2s. 4d. in excess of last year. "I do not know that there is very much that I can say to you with regard to the business that I have not already pointed out at the various meetings we have held in the past. It is very much the same story that I have to tell you—that of steadily-increasing prosperity and assiduous attention on the part of our general manager to the wants of the business, and a hope that this prosperity may continue in the future. No doubt you would like to know something with reference to the Au Petit St. Thomas, Limited. I am informed by the managing director, who is here to-day, and who represents our interests on the board of the Au Petit St. Thomas Company, that the business is doing better than could have been expected, and that there is every probability that the future will show that we have made a highly satisfactory investment in the shares of that company. Last year the profits were about 55,000l., a little over £5,000—not a very large sum of money, I admit, but still satisfactory when you consider that the Au Petit St. Thomas has branched out into a new line of business. This year, however, it is expected that the profits will show about 200,000l., or about £8,000; so that it is hoped that the concern will enter into its first stage of dividend payments next year. Their financial year only terminates this month, and but for the annoying situation created by the continuous strikes in France the results would have been still more satisfactory. I do not know that there is anything more that I have to say to you to-day, excepting to point out that which must be very agreeable to you to contemplate—viz., that since this Company was established it has actually disbursed to the holders of the ordinary shares, including the dividend we are about to declare to-day, no less a sum than £222 490, which represents in the short time of the existence of the Company 50 per cent. of the face value of the ordinary share capital of the Company. I feel sure you will agree with me that this is a satisfactory result. Before concluding my remarks I want, on behalf of my colleagues, to express the great satisfaction we have felt at the manner in which our managing director has always conducted the affairs of this Company. When the time comes to pass a vote of thanks to him, I shall be only too happy, as a shareholder myself, to give it my hearty support. If there are any questions that you wish to ask me with regard to the business or the accounts, I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability. I will now move: "That the directors' report and the balance-sheet and accounts for the year ended January 31, 1905, be, and they are hereby, received and adopted."

Mr. Henry Wolfenden seconded the motion.

Mr. Ungwall said it was satisfactory that there was an increased profit on the year. There was only one point which did not appear to be altogether satisfactory, although the matter appeared to have been thoroughly discussed at the general meeting in July, 1900. He referred to the paragraph in the auditors' report stating that they could not actually verify the total amount of the sales and the correctness of the list of debtors. This was a little disturbing, seeing that the list of accounts extended to about 250,000.

The Chairman, in reply, said the totals were regarded as accurate. The question of the reservation in the report of the auditors was one that they would never get over in this business. They were dealing with between 250,000 and 275,000 customers, and the audit was made as carefully as possible.

Other questions having been answered, the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved: "That the payment of the quarterly dividends on the preference share capital of the Company, made on February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15, 1905, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, be, and they are hereby, approved and confirmed."

Mr. James Lee seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman further moved: "That the payment on December 5, 1905, of an interim dividend on the ordinary share capital of the Company of 5 per cent. be, and is hereby, confirmed and approved, and that the payment of a further 4 per cent., making, in all, 9 per cent. for the year ended January 31, 1906, as recommended by the directors, be, and is hereby, approved and sanctioned."

This was seconded by Mr. Wolfenden and agreed to unanimously.

The Chairman announced that the final dividend would be payable on the 13th inst.

Mr. Arthur Jay proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors. Mr. F. P. Wood seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the proceedings then terminated.

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1. At the present moment the **First Preference 8 per cent. Stock of the Mexican Railway Company offers great inducement.** As the regular readers of our Market Report are aware, we have strongly recommended purchases of this stock since the time when it stood at about half the present quotation, and on occasions when the general view of the market was rather unfavourable. Throughout we have proved correct, and this, not because we have any special gifts of prophecy or because of secret information, but because we have studied so carefully the whole history and prospects of the Company for so many years that we have been in the position to make an intelligent forecast of the future.

2. We need not now repeat details with regard to the extraordinary economic progress which Mexico has made of recent years. Enough at present to say that the development has been rapid and continuous, and that the fortunes of the Mexican Railway have benefited accordingly the traffic returns for the twenty-six weeks of the current half-year showing an increase of no less than \$346,200. (For further information regarding the prospects of the railway see *Universal Market Report*.) The dividend on the First Preference Stock, which is entitled to 8 per cent., has steadily risen from $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1901 to $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for 1905, and it is merely a question of time before the full distribution is regularly made. In January last, when the quotation was about 120, we recommended purchases, and since then, in spite of the half-yearly declaration being regarded in some quarters as slightly disappointing, the price for some months past has not fallen below 126 $\frac{1}{2}$. We consider the "real value" to be stated in "The Universal Investment Tables," 145 $\frac{1}{2}$, and look to see a gradual appreciation to that figure. We are therefore clear that the price must appreciate as the true facts of the position are generally realised.

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5. The Company reserves the right to decline any application or to return any subscription at any time in the case of any objectionable Subscriber. All money subscribed will be used under the direction of the Company for the purposes of the Operation.

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